LH3
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the martlet

flying without feet for 52 years

january 27th, 2000 volume 52, issue 21

Ace on campus

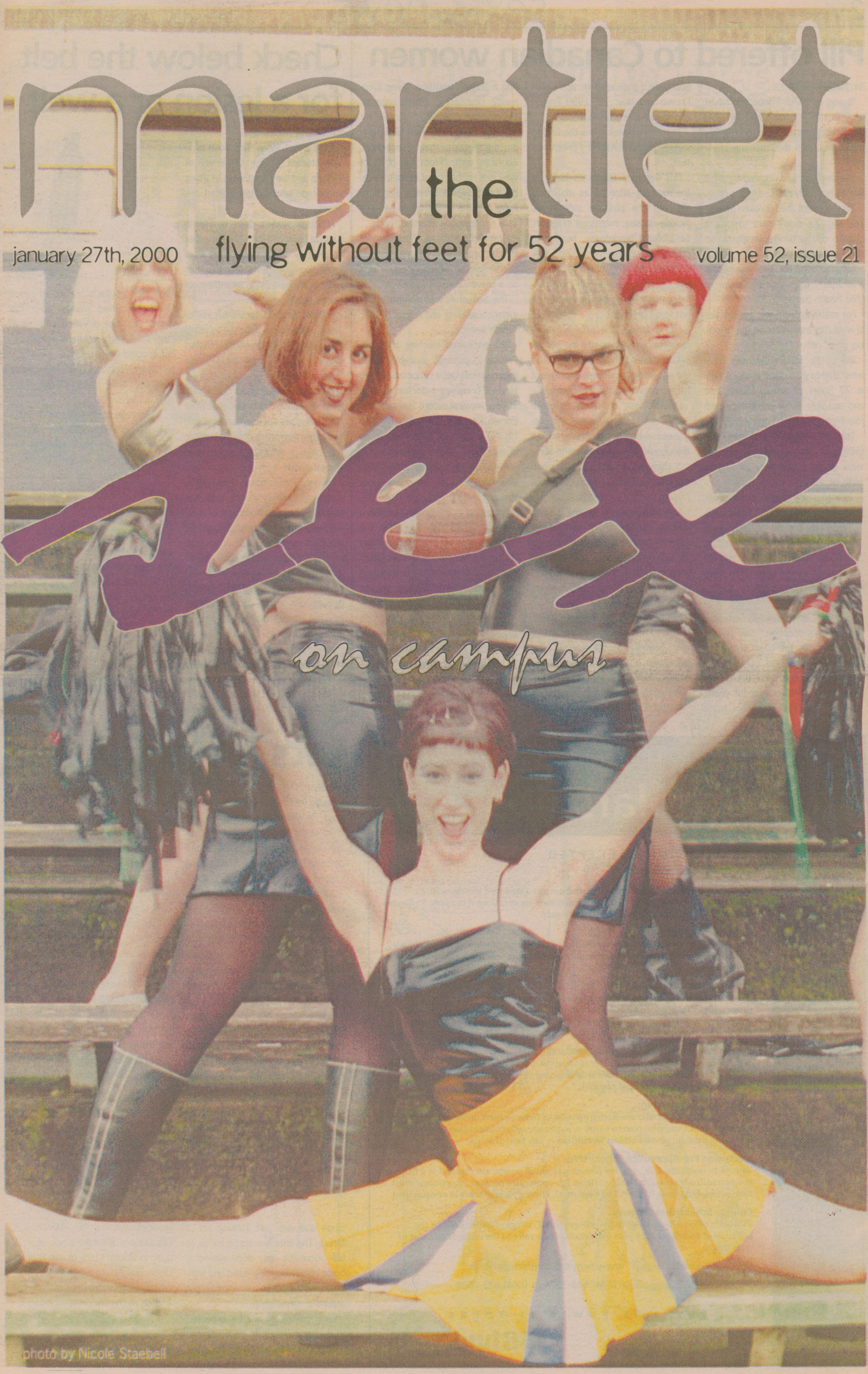

photo by Nicole Staebell

Pill offered to Canadian women

BY CARMEL ECKER

"It was so awful. I hope you never have to take it," my friend Jill* told me three years ago, describing her experience with the "morning afte"r pill.

She said she had vomited for a full day as her body reacted to the drug.

The condom had broken during sex and she didn't want to take a chance on becoming pregnant, so she went to her doctor.

"What do you do when everything else fails?" asks Dr. Bill Dyson of UVic Health Services.

For many women, the answer lies in what has been dubbed the "morning after" pill.

Since the 1970s, women have been able to go to their doctors within 72 hours of sexual intercourse and possibly avoid pregnancy with four high-dose birth control pills.

The pills contain estrogen and progestin (combined ECPs) and work in the same way as regular birth control pills.

Two pills are taken immediately, followed by two more 12 hours later.

These pills prevent or delay ovulation and are very different from the infamous French abortion pill RU-486, which can be used up to seven weeks after conception to abort a pregnancy.

"It's not an absolutely effective form of contraception," said Dyson, "but it reduces the chance of pregnancy by about 85 per cent.".

Although doctors have prescribed this form of birth control for years, on Mar. 16, 1999 Health Canada approved a packaged version called Preven and Nov. 10, 1999 Preven was launched in Canada.

The Preven package is the first to include instructions and a pregnancy test.

Not everyone reacts as badly to the morning after pill as my friend did, but the possible side-effects include nausea, menstrual irregularities, breast tenderness, headache, cramps and dizziness.

Dyson said any woman wanting to use the morning after pill must consider many things beside her desire not to be pregnant.

For example, the pill's effectiveness may be weakened if the woman is taking prescription medication and will not work if a woman is pregnant from a previous sexual encounter.

Doctors ask questions to make sure a woman really wants the contraception before prescribing it, but the decision is ultimately up to her.

"I think we're past the day when doctors make these decisions," said Dyson.

Dyson is used to helping women decide whether or not to take the morning after pill. He said students at university often can't interrupt their lives for a pregancy.

"We try to accommodate whatever a person's needs are."

On busy days, said Dyson, health services will receive half-a-dozen or more requests for the morning after pill, which is most effective if used within 24 hours of unprotected sex.

Although some people see this as a better option than waiting and getting a surgical abortion, some pregnancy counselling groups oppose the morning after pill.

Peggy Chapeskie from Birthright, an organization that discourages abortion, said, "From the point of view that life begins at conception, a pill that prevents a fertile egg from lodging in the uterus would be seen as a spontaneous abortion."

However, Melissa Freeman of UVic's pro-choice Sexual Assault Centre said of Preven, "We look at it as a preventative measure."

The Sexual Assault Centre offers initial counselling and referal to UVic Health Services.

The packaged morning after pill, Preven, is currently available on the Internet, but at a price. SafeWeb Medical promises a doctor will look at your medical record and send the Preven kit within 24 hours for $75 US if it is right for you. There is no charge if they refuse your request.

A visit to your doctor is free with your care card and pharmacies sell Preven for $37.

According to the Preven website, a woman should only consider the morning after pill if a condom slips or breaks, a woman miscalculates her "safe" time and has sex without birth control, a diaphragm moves out of position, sexual intercourse is not consensual, moment of passion results in sex without contraceptive use or any other situation where birth control was not used.

Check below the belt for a lesion or a welt

BY TASHA MARSDEN

They travel more than your average student at the University of Victoria and they have ways of going unnoticed: sexually transmitted diseases.

Although studies done by Health Canada report an increasing number of sexually transmitted disease in youth, some experts feel that this reflects an increasing awareness of sexual health.

"I think 'new' STDs are a case of newly understood, opposed to newly developing," said Dr. Michael Rekart with the B.C. Centre for Disease Control Society.

Donna Denman, head nurse with UVic Health Services, said that while the clinic does not keep statistics on sexually-transmitted diseases, there has been a noticeable increase in genital warts.

Human Papilomma Virus (HPV) manifests itself as lesions or bumps to which chemical treatment or electro-cauterization (burning) can be used for removal. There is no cure for the condition and in some cases it has been linked to cervical cancer. Warts are most commonly spread through skin-on-skin contact with an infected partner that displays open sores. Representatives from Planned Parenthood B.C. said that women with HPV should have a pap smear every six months.

Rekart did note an outbreak of syphillis among sex trade workers and their contacts. Reported cases have stemmed mainly from the lower east side of Vancouver, including "boyfriends, pushers and pimps" of infected women.

"What's happened lately is we've realized how many people have STDs," he said.

Rekart claims that diagnostic tests for STDs are more effective and efficient than they have been in the past. Healthcare workers may now test for herpes and several other venereal diseases with a blood test or chlamydia through a urine sample.

Denman said the clinic offers a range of informational resources in the clinic but workers do not actively promote safe sex in the campus community as much as they'd like to. "We don't have time to be as proactive as we'd like to be."

Both the Women's Centre and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance have informational resources, the latter also offering materials (such as condoms and gloves) for safer sex.

BC Hydro

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THE POWER IS YOURS

BC hydro

Let's talk about sex

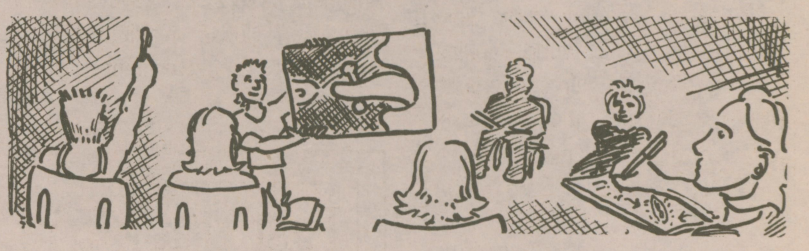
BY BEN HART

Have you ever wondered what goes on when lesbians have sex? What about gay men or heterosexuals? Do you want to know what goes on once the lights have been turned off and the curtains are pulled shut?

Juicy Details intends on breaking down the walls built around the discussion of sex. Coordinator Andrea Smith of UVic's Pride Collective said the group is aiming at drawing members of all sexual persuasions to talk about their sexuality without the fear of intolerance and ridicule.

"I think people are really shy about sex, way more serious and curious than communicative," said Smith.

Maybe you think you have a few experiences that will make others blush and are just looking for a forum. The time has come for us to talk about the dirty deed without it being either dirty or a deed and without the boundaries society has put around it, says Smith.



Each participant will be expected to draft a question to be discussed by the group as a whole. Since the process is anonymous, Smith expects "it will get pretty racy."

She aims to bring the UVic community together into a healthy discussion on a very healthy act. Smith feels there is a lot to learn from individual experiences, and that so called 'sex experts' are often not the best resources for youth.

"Because there's so little advice out there, the people that pipe up tend to be called authorities," she said. The more diverse the audience, the more fruitful Smith feels Juicy Details will be.

"I'm sure there'll be people who have never had sex or are questioning their sexuality."

The sessions begin on Feb. 9 and continue on through the following Wednesdays until March 8. Discussions will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Room 110B of the Student Union Building to open minded individuals. For more information call Andrea at UVic pride at 472-4393.

The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality commissioned a survey on the sex lives of university students, exploring the frequency, diversity and content of their sexual fantasies.

• Men reported having sexual fantasies once a day, while women reported having sexual fantasies about once a week.

• Using the 40-question Wilson Sex Fantasy Questionnaire, researchers found that because men seem to fantasize at a greater rate than women do, they do so with a greater variety of themes.

• The most commonly reported positive sexual thoughts were having intercourse with a loved partner, kissing passionately, making love elsewhere than the bedroom and taking someone's clothes off.

• The study also showed that while men's negative sexual thoughts focused more on ideas of sexual dominance, women's centred on sexual submission.

• The most commonly reported negative sexual thoughts involved having intercourse with someone the person knew but had not had sex with, being embarrassed by failure of sexual performance, having sex with an anonymous stranger and being overwhelmed by a stranger's sexual advances.

– compiled by Marisa Crockett

Condom manufacturer Durex Canada commissioned a survey which looked at sex attitudes and behaviour among nearly 10,000 youth over age 16 in 14 countries.

• Young people are learning about sex from their peers, books and sexual partners instead of from school programs and parents.

• Only 14 per cent of those surveyed cited their parents as their primary source while 24 per cent said they'd like them to be.

• Globally, one in four youth have had sex before age 16.

• In Canada, the average age teens first have sex is 16.6 years, a year earlier than the global average age of 17.6 years.

• Of the people surveyed, 83 per cent said sex education should begin before the age of 14.

• Canadians are among the most faithful lovers in the world, ranking fifth with only 34 per cent admitting to having more than one sexual relationship at a time.

• Americans were found to be the most unfaithful with half of respondents admitting to cheating on partners.

• The survey also placed Canadians second for sexual stamina, making love for 22.7 minutes on average. Americans beat us in that category with an average of 28.1 minutes.

–compiled by CUP Winnipeg reporter Andrea Breau

Group seeks assault policy

BY MIKE COX

The Open University Resource Sexual Assault Centre is looking to have a code of conduct for students and staff implemented at the University of Victoria that deals explicitly with sexual assault.

Roshni Narain, with the assault centre, said the code of conduct is in very early stages of development, and would require co-operation from a number of campus groups.

"This is going to require a lot of work through a lot of different groups," she said. "We want to have some allies on campus rather than just us."

Narain said she would like to contact the harassment officer on campus, the University of Victoria Student Society and Campus Security in order to get support for the proposed code.

"This stands a chance of being one hundred per cent shot down so we need the support," she said.

Alison Eddy, Personal Safety Coordinator for Campus Security, said she thinks a code of conduct is needed at UVic, but it's a sticky situation.

"In a university setting, it's hard to find a balance between the rights of an individual and the rights of a group of people," she said.

Eddy said she would like the chance to help establish a code of conduct on campus, but it is going to take a lot of time.

Currently, UVic has a policy for threatening and violent behaviour, but Narain said this isn't enough.

According to university guide lines, the mandate of the committee dealing with violent and aggressive behaviour is to "investigate and report to the president on allegations of disruptive incidents of threatening or violent behaviour by any member of the university community or visitor to the university."

A committee – made up of members from counselling services, campus security, the UVSS and other organizations — investigates any allegations and can recommend suspension from UVic to the president.

Narain said having this policy in place is a start, but it's a far cry from other universities in Canada and the US.

"American universities have been far more responsive to this," she said, adding that frats, sororities and spring break probably played a big role in establishing a code of conduct.

But it's not only the States that has codes of conduct.

The University of Toronto (U of T) has a code of conduct that has strict guidelines dealing with violence and aggression but also deals with sexual assault: "No person shall assault another person sexually or threaten any other person with sexual assault."

While UVic's policy is limited to aggressive and violent behaviour, the U of T code of conduct sticks closely to the Ontario Human Rights Code and covers a much broader range of offenses.

Narain said the U of T code of conduct is a good model to look at, but wants any code at UVic to be a collective work.

"I think this is about educating ourselves and then going ahead to the senate with a proposal we all agree with."

Victoria sweeps prostitutes

BY SARAH MCEACHERN AND GILLIAN JEROME

Two years ago, 26-year-old Michelle walked the streets of Victoria for a living. She "hooked" while high on cocaine or heroin, selling her body to doctors, lawyers, other women's husbands, even a judge, she said.

Many nights she walked up the driveway to The Empress Hotel, past the manicured lawns, the rose bushes, the entrance draped in ivy to service businessmen from out of town.

She worked whenever she needed money for drugs: morning, noon or night. The night shift was always the most dangerous, she said. From 11 p.m. until 4 a.m. she strolled the downtown core, mainly Broad Street, collecting enough dates to supply herself with the next hit.

After getting involved with a boyfriend who was addicted to drugs, Michelle turned her first trick at 16-years-old. She did it once and kept living at home. By 18 she was working as a prostitute full-time. She worked the streets of Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo for six years.

"I got sick of the lifestyle," she said. "It was lonely. It was dangerous. I got so wrapped up in the drugs... when I quit I didn't feel comfortable selling my body anymore."

Michelle spent 11 days in detox at the Pemberton House in Victoria. Through the Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society (PEERS) she said she learned how to live drug-free and ready to give back to the community. With PEERS she did basic life skills training to get a job, then built a program called Second Chance which helps sex workers reintegrate into the work force.

"I did a lot of shitty things in my past," she said. "I want to let other women know there's someone out there who has been there, who knows what it's like."

Now Michelle spends her evenings strolling the streets of Victoria handing out condoms, clean syringes, socks, candy and coffee to women who need it.

As a PEERS outreach worker, she and a colleague provide support to prostitutes.

Michelle said they often accompany women in crisis who are intimidated or afraid to go to the hospital or the police. Sometimes the help is as simple as driving a woman home after a bad night.

Story continued on page 4, "Victoria Sex workers need public support"

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on the spot

BY MARISA CROCKETT

Where is the best place to have sex on campus?

angelica montgomery
4th year english

"The lookout on Mystic Vale."

alexis jensen
3rd year history in art

"In the law library...under any desk. You're breaking the law."

gareth oystryk
3rd year philosophy

"Clearihue handicapped washroom – there's a lock on the door."

claire suchy
4th year psychology

"Cornett – second floor classrooms."

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SWAP is a program of the Canadian Federation of Students

Victoria's sex workers need public support

Story continued from page 3, "Victoria sweeps prostitutes"

Cleaning "the stroll" – the popular areas where prostitutes meet their johns along Broad and Government streets – has been the focus of the City of Victoria's urban planning department, supported by local businesses who want street walkers out of sight.

Local sex trade advocate Barbara Taylor said the decision to disband the stroll threatens the safety of all women walking the streets of Victoria at night.

The "scheme" to add new paving, display public art and rearrange traffic along Broad Street started two years ago, said senior city planner Brian Sikstrom. He said the idea is to "make it a more safe, more attractive, more vibrant street." Sikstrom said the elimination of prostitution and vagrancy will help local business. Approved by the province last fall, construction is set to begin later this year, he said.

The gentrification of the downtown sector forces prostitutes to work over a diffused area, along Quadra, Hillside and even into Esquimalt, said Michelle. Her outreach team spends a lot of their time driving around trying to find the women who need their help.

Taylor said it's now more difficult than ever for nurses and outreach workers to discern who needs help or who may have disappeared.

Taylor's work is also a form of recovery. Having walked the streets herself for 10 years, she knows first hand that street prostitution designated to a specific area is much safer. Not only do the women have the safety of numbers, their clients also know where to find them.

For street nurses like the ones who work for Street Outreach Services, it's easier to distribute condoms and keep track of the women.

The number of prostitutes in Victoria varies anywhere between 50 and 150 men and women. Although a smaller population in comparison to Canada's larger cities, the street prostitutes in Victoria face the same dangers.

Prostitutes are 160 per cent more likely to be beaten, murdered, mutilated or raped than the average woman.

According to Rev. Allen Tysick, a street minister for The Open Door, the street prostitution situation in Victoria is mild in comparison to larger cities. It's no reason, however, to ignore the situation and pretend it doesn't exist.

Rev. Tysick said the municipality's choice to clean up Broad and Government Streets was solely "to protect the virgin tourists" without taking into account the safety of the female prostitutes.

Taylor touched on personal experience when she mentioned a further hazard of a "no stroll city."

At 13-years-old she was propositioned three times by men while she was on a short walk in Edmonton. She was not a prostitute at the time, but the suggestion is what first made her consider becoming one.

Without a "stroll," clients have no way of discerning who is or isn't a prostitute, posing a risk to the safety of all women.

PEERS is a support network for all sex trade workers, male and female, including strippers, escorts, erotic massagers and phone sex workers.

PEERS runs a program called RISE – Re-education Initiative for the Sexually Educated – which teaches sex workers who want to leave the industry basic computer and life skills without requiring they be off drugs or alcohol before they are accepted into programs.

The Sandy Merriman House is an emergency shelter for women which offers sex workers the chance to do laundry or have a hot meal. Nurses visit the shelter every Tuesday afternoon.

Taylor says educating the public is just as crucial in keeping women safe. In the last three years, she has given over 100 "speaks" in local high schools, hoping to allay misconceptions about prostitution.

"The average age of entry into prostitution is 13," says Taylor, and "the number one cause of prostitution is poverty."

Through her presentations, Taylor hopes to educate young people, and inevitably, to deter girls from entering prostitution, as well as encouraging the public to look beyond the label of prostitute and see the person who exists underneath.

While being interviewed, Michelle apologized for noise created by her baby hitting the phone to get her attention. Since getting off the streets and getting clean, she has met a man and had a child. She will be getting married in the next year. Once estranged from her family, she now stays in close touch with her mother.

She said Victoria could use Vancouver's outreach as a model where needle exchanges stay open for 24 hours and outreach workers make their rounds in a van equipped with food, condoms, needles and coffee.

She says her work on the streets helps her in her recovery. In terms of trying to push prostitutes out of the public eye by clearing their district, Michelle said people have taken another look at the profession.

"It's the oldest trade in the world," she said. "Some people do it for drugs, some people are housewives trying to feed their kids and pay the rent."

Visiting speaker attacks human rights record in Iran

BY SIMON GLEZOS

"Marx once said that religion is the opiate of the masses," said Maryam Namazie, deputy director of the International Federation of Iranian Refugees (IFIR). "Now it seems it has become the mass murderer."

Last week Namazie spoke to a room full of people about the state of human rights in Iran, and women's rights in particular.

In 1979 the American-backed Shah of Iran was overthrown by a popular revolt. His regime was then replaced with a fundamentalist Islamic government headed by the Ayatollah Khomeini. The new government established a theocracy that ruled people brutally, according to the religious laws of Islam.

According to Namazie, somewhere between 100,000 and 150,000 Iranians have been executed over the past 20 years of the Islamic Republic for violating Islamic law.

The plight of the women of Iran is even worse. Under the new laws women have little, if any, rights. Domestic violence is a common occurrence, a fact Namazie explained by pointing out that "under Islamic law, women are supposed to be beaten."

The most visible example of female oppression is the requirement that all women wear a Hejab, a full veil that covers them from head to toe, at all times. The punishment for violations of this dress code can run from imprisonment to public whippings.

Schools, hospitals and other social institutions are strictly segregated resulting in what IFIR refers to as a "sexual apartheid." Girls can be married as young as nine-years-old and unmarried women have essentially no rights or social status.

Other acts of repression include public stonings of women accused of adultery, laws against speaking about women's rights and the rape of women before they are executed.

"The Government has specific rules with regards to what kinds of stones can be used in a stoning," explained Namazie. "They can't be too small or else they won't hurt enough, but they can't be too big for fear that they'll kill the person too quickly."

Namazie says the Iranian government "invades every aspect of life."

"[Iran] is a place where there is no freedom of expression, no free press... no right to religion or atheism. A place where just the fact of being born a women is reason for suspect. A place where you can be executed for your sexuality."

Many governments and news outlets have said that in recent years, under newly elected president Mohammed Khatami, Iran is reforming and becoming more sensitive to human rights, an opinion Namazie opposes.

"A lot of governments are talking about the new reformist president. However, these elections were a farce. The president had to be okayed by the Islamic Republic. It's the same platform, the only difference is their techniques."

Namazie's family fled Iran after the establishment of the regime and has been fighting for change ever since.

When asked what actions she thought students could take to help the people of Iran, Namazie said "anything from planning demonstrations and protests, sit-ins, to writing letters, collecting signatures. I think the Islamic Republic of Iran can be pressured, just like any government can. And that given the repression in Iran, and the risks people there are taking, it's important that they know that there is so much international support."

Namazie asserted that the Iranian people want change as well, pointing to the numerous worker strikes and student protests taking place in recent years, as well as the massive numbers of refugees fleeing the borders of Iran.

The talk was organized by Abbas Mohammadi of IFIR, who also acted as the moderator of the event.

The intent was to inform people of the woeful lack of human rights in Iran and to encourage taking action to put pressure on the Islamic Republic.

"We talk a lot about women's rights... but we don't often talk about women of colour and the specific problems they're facing in their area," said UVSS director of finance Summer McFadyen.

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UVic students vote to strike

BY GILLIAN JEROME

UVic students voted overwhelmingly in favour of picketing all campus entrances Feb. 2 in support of a national day of action to restore federal cuts to post secondary education.

In total 1534 sudents voted in the first-ever on-line polling at UVic, half the voter turn-out for the U-Pass vote in March.

UVSS chair Morgan Stewart said he's more than pleased with the results considering that there was just one polling station set up on campus compared to 17 for the U-Pass.

The Access 2000 campaign headed by the Canadian Federation of Students is pressuring Ottawa to restore $3.7 billion in transfer payments to the provinces.

Classes will not be cancelled for the morning pickets, but students won't be penalized for missing class to participate, says UVic senate secretary Sheila Sheldon Collyer. She added that the university senate supports the student day of protest and will extend academic amnesty to students until 4 p.m. Feb. 2, meaning students who miss class will be given the opportunity to make up for missed work.

Stewart says that while administration supports students, they would rather "we meet with government in back rooms," he said. "But we've found that doesn't work. We're forced into the streets to ask for what we want, otherwise we're screwed."

"I'll be there on the lawn," said Zoe Blake, a 4th-year writing student. "I'm not yet in heavy debt, I'm on the edge, but I'm worried more cuts will mean my program will be the first to go."

Fourth-year geography student Lisa Huisman said she'll picket on campus but won't be at the legislature. "I support the strike but we're more fortunate than students in Ontario or Nova Scotia. At least the B.C. government is making an effort to keep tuition down."

German exchange student Dirk Bergmann said he plans to work in the information technology sector back home where tutition is free. "If I had to pay tuition I wouldn't study at all. I couldn't afford to." He said students went on strike for a month when the government tried to introduce tuition fees in Germany two years ago.

At Camsoun College a "debt wall" designed by local graffiti artist Hanz Fear was created to encourage students to sign their names and the amount of their loan debts. The 8-foot high, 20-foot long wall is a loose interpretation of Pink Floyd's iconic album of the same name.

Picket lines will be up at UVic from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. followed by a rally starting at 1 p.m. at the legislature.

UVic teams with "elitist" society

BY PATTI EDGAR

A letter from UVic's president encouraging top students to join an American-based honours society is a scam, says the campus students' society.

Earlier this month, 1,400 students representing the highest 15 per cent of academic achievers on campus were sent a letter from president David Strong inviting the students to become lifetime members of the Golden Key National Honours Society for a fee of $80.

Kari Worton, director of academics for the UVSS, said her group is telling students to keep their $80 in their pockets. The Golden Key is an administration-heavy organization and the idea behind the society is elitist because only the people who can afford the fee can join, she said.

"This only recognizes people's academic achievement if they have $80, otherwise you just have a letter," she said.

The Golden Key is a worldwide non-profit organization based out of Atlanta. Last year Kari Wharton, an assistant director with the organization, approached UVic's administrators about starting the 11th chapter of the organization on Canadian campuses. After getting UVic to send out a letter to 60 of the university's best students inviting them to an information session, Golden Key found a dozen students who wanted to run a chapter here, she said. This January, UVic sent out the 1,400 invitation letters to students at the society's expense.

Penelope Codding, UVic's vice-president of academics, said allowing Golden Key to come on campus was in-line with the university's values. The society recognizes top achievers with scholarships, organizes community volunteer work and helps students with networking and career placement through its corporate partners which including Dow Chemical, General Mills, and KPMG.

However, the students' society's Warton feels Golden Key's literature places the biggest emphasis on the scholarships, giving students the wrong impression about what their $80 buys.

"It's like a lottery ticket. You have a chance [to win a scholarship], but not a big one."

According to Golden Key's Wharton, $3 out of every membership fee goes towards scholarships for members at that school. Students also have a crack at 12 $10,000 US scholarships, that members from around the world compete for. There are also five new worldwide scholarships for arts students, although the size of the awards haven't been determined yet, she said. But scholarships are only one focus of the society, she added.

"I'm not sure [the UVSS] recognizes this is only one service we apply to students, [scholarships] aren't the only thing we offer."

The UVSS is also concerned that the organization is top heavy, with too few resources going directly to the students who pay into it, said Warton.

A 1998 financial audit of the Golden Key shows that only $344,812 went to scholarships out of a $7-million budget, acquired mostly through membership fees. While $1.5 million went to administration and general costs, more than $2 million went to "initiations and certificates" and another $2 million went to "chapter development." Other costs included conventions, conferences, publications, pins, medals and honour cords.

Golden Key's Wharton says financial statements show only 25 per cent of membership fees goes towards operating expenses, pointing out that the worldwide organization with 285 chapters has only 40 full-time staff.

However, UVSS's Worton argues that costs such as certificates and chapter development should be included in operating costs, which would make that 25 per cent grow considerably.

Regardless of how UVic's students' society feels about the organization, students will have to make the choice whether or not to join themselves, said Wharton.

Codding agrees. However, she said she is open to the UVSS's suggestion to start a parallel student academic recognition system that doesn't have a fee attached to it. As well, the local Golden Key chapter is considering how they can allow students who can't afford the fee to join, she added.

"We're really focused on opening the door to provide students with the opportunity and it's up to students to get involved."

Mature student wants out of U-Pass bus deal

BY MIRANDA POST

For self-described "quite mature" student Carmen Robertson, the U-pass is a waste of money. Robertson is raising her eleven-year-old grandson and has to drive him to and from school every day.

She's just one mature student who is questioning the universal bus pass fee of $44 every semester.

Single parents who have to drive their children as much as she does, have no use for the U-pass, says Robertson, who drives to school.

"I don't use the bus strictly because of the situation I am in," she said.

Last semester she was one of 38 students who decided to submit a U-Pass appeal, hoping that the Graduate Students' Society (GSS) would exempt her from the fee.

However, she was denied the appeal because in order to win, students must either be charged the fee twice because they take classes at both Camosun and UVic, have a disability that prevents them from taking public transit or already have been issued a bus pass from the Ministry of Finance and Corporate relations.

Undergraduate students also face the same rules. There were about 70 undergrad opt-outs last semester and 50 appeals. About a quarter of the appeals were granted said Summer McFayden, UVSS Director of Finance.

"The opt-out policies are just too closed," said Robertson, "I agree that we all have to live together and share, but $44 is a month's milk for my grandson and me."

Robertson has approached the campus ombudsperson Martine Conway with her issue. Conway said of the 100 cases she's handled in the last six months, five concerned the U-Pass.

The appeal policies are part of the GSS's and UVSS's contract with B.C. Transit, said Sarah Howard, services co-ordinator for the GSS.

"The number of students who appealed with the [same concern as Robertson] was very low," said Howard.

Of the 39 grad students who appealed last semester, only Robertson has taken the appeal process further than the GSS.

"I'm sure that there are other students out there in similar circumstances [to Robertson's]," said GSS president Sandra Guarascio. "I have compassion for her situation. But we felt really strongly that the benefits [of the U-Pass] are universal when we were implementing the pass."

Using the U-pass.
Martlet photo by Greg Sherwell

Last semester about 15 students submitted appeals because they live out of town and have to commute by car. However, the most common complaints and appeals Howard receives are from people who are "pissed off at having to pay their parking fees and the U-Pass even though they have the option of taking the bus."

Because there haven't been a lot of appeals submitted like Robertson's, *the opt-out policies probably won't change anytime* soon. If there were 150 people with the same concerns as Robertson then maybe things would be different, said Howard.

Robertson, on the other hand, sees an immediate need to extend the eligibility categories for appeals.

"What about other folks that have children who just aren't speaking out about their problems with the U-Pass system."

Since the U-Pass system is still ironing out the wrinkles in its first year, Howard suggested certain sub-sections could be added to the opt-out criteria in a year or two.

"B.C. transit is a lot more flexible than what their contract say," said Guarascio.

Appeals will be looked at in February by a committee comprised of two or three graduate executive members and Howard.

Robertson said she will keep on submitting appeals and taking her case to other groups on campus.

"I'll just go ahead with what I've been doing," said Robertson, "Hopefully it'll make things different for people in the future."

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One year and projectionists still fighting lockout

BY SARAH DUSTERBECK

It's been over a year since B.C. projectionists were first locked out yet no agreement has been reached between union members and theatres.

After months of refusing arbitration, the bargaining committee for Cineplex Odeon and Famous Players theatres sat down to negotiate with the projectionist's union last month. However, neither party accepted the other's proposals.

Damon Faulkner, president of B.C.'s projectionist union, called the talks a Christmas public relations tactic, saying the companies offered no concessions to workers.

The lockout began last December when parent companies Sony and Viacom offered 60 per cent wage cuts over a three year term and a reduction of 50 full-time positions. Prior to the lockout the average annual salary for projectionists was $45,000.

During the voluntary arbitration projectionists were offered 15 jobs at 40 hours per week and an annual salary of $30,000. The deal would put 75 per cent of projectionists out of work. The proposed buyout option included a severance package of $479,000 to be divided among members leaving the company.

Faulkner says the offer was hardly a just reward for the many years of service. Most companies pay a severance of two to four weeks of income for every year of service.

"If they take the buyout there is no other work," he said. "For this small amount of money they will give up their trade. The skills are not transferable and these multinational firms dominate the market."

But Faulkner says undermining the union has been the real issue all along. Fifteen employees do not make a viable union, he says.

Faulkner says it isn't the salary they have to pay projectionists that concerns them, but the threat they pose as union members.

"What [Cineplex Odeon and Famous Players] spent on this dispute would retire all the projectionists and what they lost would retire them to the Bahamas...These multinational companies want all their employees working for minimum wage."

John Nixon, media spokesperson for the joint bargaining committee of Famous Players and Cineplex Odeon, says negotiations broke down when the union asked for a $3.3-million severance package. He says the companies aren't prepared to budge because pickets haven't had "significant impact" on revenue.

Nixon says the pay issues are a matter of technology. In the 1920s, projectionists jobs were protected under the Fire Marshall's Act. Back then film was made of a flammable nitrate-based material which could easily catch fire coupled with the heat produced in running the projector.

The skills are not transferable and these multinational firms dominate the market

That type of film disappeared after World War Two, he said. In 1996 the federal government did away with the old laws, leaving only two companies — Cineplex Odeon and Famous Players — paying their projectionists' union wages. In 1989 a Sunday worker at a six-screen theatre in B.C. made $59 an hour while most independent theatres employed no projectionist at all.

Now most theatres use celluloid film which eliminates the fire hazard and the complexity of the work to "spooling film through a slot and pushing a button."

Nixon says theatres will no longer need people behind the projector at all. Famous Players just opened digital projection theatres in Toronto, Ont. and Richmond, B.C.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is responding to what he calls "nation-wide union-busting" by organizing boycotts against Sony across the country, says Faulkner.

Meanwhile, statements made in a hiring memo for the new $21-million Silver City theatre at Tillicum Mall asks Famous Players managers to employ only those who are willing to work for minimum pay and part-time hours.

First leaked to B.C. projectionists in November, the hiring memo told mangers to ensure that the staff hired stays non-union. The memo also said non-union personnel are less "likely to become sour towards their work environment."

Charges have been laid against Famous Players by the B.C. Government and Service Employee Union, the organization representing union members in the event of alleged unfair labour practices.

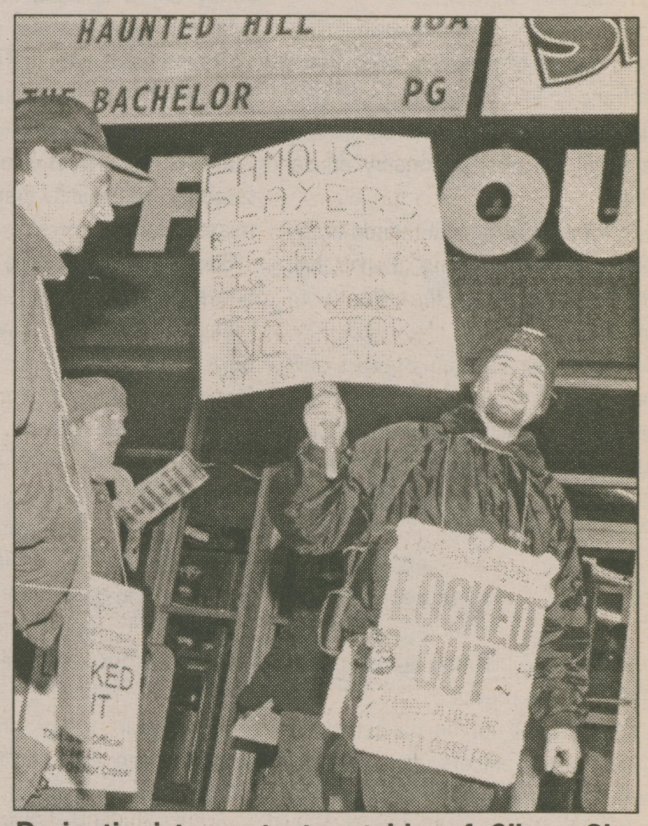
Union spokesperson Preben Skovgaard alleges Famous Players is guilty of bias in their hiring practices and unfair treatment of employees who choose not to cross picket lines. Though it's stated in the union's constitution that employees will not be required to cross, Skovgaard said "the employer has consistently refused to schedule our people," opting instead for replacement workers who are not bound by the constitution.

Nixon denies employees have been mistreated and says the theatre is legally entitled to hire non-union replacement workers when union employees are unable to cross picket lines.

"There is no merit to their particular complaint. The union hasn't been able to demonstrate that an individual was not hired because of being a supporter of the union."

The B.C. Labour Board is now reviewing the matter and neither side is certain how long it will take.

He says the dispute affects not only the few remaining projectionists and their families, but will have a much broader impact on the future of all unions. "Other employers will mimic what they see as acceptable. Today we are seeing employers demand outrageous wage concessions more than ever."



Projectionists protest outside of Silver City movie theatre.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

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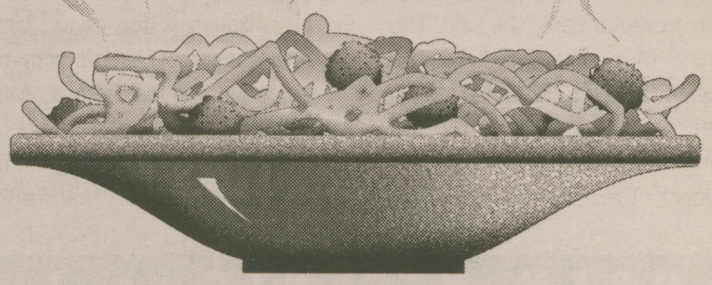

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Co-op pioneer scales back school program

By Hannah Scissons

REGINA (CUP) – Despite a trend towards more co-op programs at post-secondary institutions across the country, one of Canada's co-op pioneers is pulling back.

The University of Regina's (U of R) Faculty of Engineering has approved making the co-op component of the degree non-mandatory, and the decision is only awaiting final approval from the University Senate later this spring.

In a memo sent last October by Acting Engineering Dean Dr. Paitoon Tontiwachwuthikul, students were informed of the decision and it was stressed that the program option has not been finalized.

Dr. Paitoon said that assuming Senate approval the option should come into affect in the fall of 2000.

"The philosophy behind the decision is that we want students to have more choices," said Dr. Paitoon.

U of R embraced co-op education in 1969, the first university in Western Canada and the fourth in all of Canada to do so.

The co-op program combines academic semesters with semesters spent working for companies within the sector the student is studying.

Currently, only the engineering faculty makes co-op mandatory for students, while administration and computer science are the other main participants in the co-op program.

The engineering faculty and the co-op office are both expecting that 80 to 90 per cent of the students will still choose co-op if given the option, but they want to provide the strictly academic program as well.

If a student already has a diploma from a technical school, argue administrators, and a few years of work experience they may want to get through the degree as soon as possible.

But students who have heard about the option take a different view, especially those students who have had trouble finding work terms through the co-op office.

Lisa Borys, a second-year engineering student, said that if the co-op option becomes non-mandatory she probably won't pursue work terms, particularly because there has been a shortage of work terms in a number of semesters.

"I can get out a year earlier and get real experience and get paid real money for my work," she said.

In the past, the placement for students looking for their first work term has been around 70 per cent. This could throw students "off-track" for a year or more because classes are only offered at certain times and the schedules are arranged assuming students get the work term.

The engineering faculty took steps to deal with this a few years ago, offering more classes in the semester scheduled for the work-term.

Nevertheless, if a student continues to have trouble finding placement the necessity of work terms can stretch out the time in school by a few years.

Other students, however, point out that providing the non co-op option doesn't deal with one of the main problems in the engineering faculty. Over the last few years enrolment in engineering has been steadily growing, while the co-op office has not undergone a similar growth.

Last summer, co-op fees were almost doubled in order to hire two new employees, but students are still waiting to see the benefits. One of the new employees recently resigned and the office is in the process of rehiring.

"I'm a big supporter of the co-op program," said Tyler Law, a fifth-year engineering student, "but I think that the amount we're paying for co-op fees is ridiculous."

And as the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs, Dr. Hilary Horan, pointed out, the co-op office is looking to expand into other areas of the university such as Arts.

"The co-op office's job is going to get broader," said Dr. Horan.

Suport staff get ready to strike

By Mason Wright

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) – Transit-riding students at British Columbia's four universities may find it difficult to get to class on time if university support staffs decide to go on strike after January 30.

Transit officials said last week that company policy in a strike situation is "safety first."

In other words, if picket lines go up at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria or the University of Northern British Columbia, bus drivers may have to let their passengers out in a predetermined safe spot nearby, leaving them to walk the rest of the way to campus.

Seven locals of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), representing 7,000 support staff workers at the four universities, have been in a legal strike position since mid-January, but so far job action has been limited.

All locals except one at UBC have placed a ban on overtime, while many of them are in a work-to-rule position. Brief walkouts occurred earlier this month at UBC, UVic and UNBC.

At UBC on the morning of Jan. 5, and at UNBC on the morning of Jan. 14, buses would only go as far as the access roads to campus. In both cases, passengers were left with a brisk morning walk to their campuses.

Last week, the province's Minister of Labour appointed a special mediator – former Labour Relations Board chair Stephen Kelleher – to guide negotiations between CUPE and the universities, at the request of both parties. At that point, the unions agreed not to escalate current job action until January 30, and the universities agreed not to lock workers out during the same period.

But if there is job action, the transit companies have made their policies clear.

"From a corporate standpoint or from a liability standpoint, we will not put customers and our employees in any type of situation where their security or safety could be at risk," said John Stewart, manager of media relations for Coast Mountain BusLink, the Lower Mainland's transit authority. "If striking workers picket an area that inhibits access for our buses, then the buses will not enter."

The company would also pick up passengers in the designated safe spot during a strike, Stewart said.

"Our area supervisors are on the ground [to] help inform people of where the pick up and drop-offs are occurring," he said.

He added that bus service may improve on any given day during a strike depending on where pickets are placed.

"Hopefully that is something that the strikers will take into consideration: how much disruption they want to create and how much inconvenience they want to create for people," he said.

"You take into consideration all kinds of things," replied Lynn Fowler, president of SFU's CUPE Local 3338. "It depends on whether you're trying to be really visible or whether you're just trying to target certain areas of the university. And the physical layout of each campus tends to come into consideration."

Spokespeople from B.C. Transit, the provincial transit authority, confirmed that the policies are the same all over B.C.

Meanwhile, the union that represents bus drivers in Greater Vancouver said that its policy is not to cross picket lines, period.

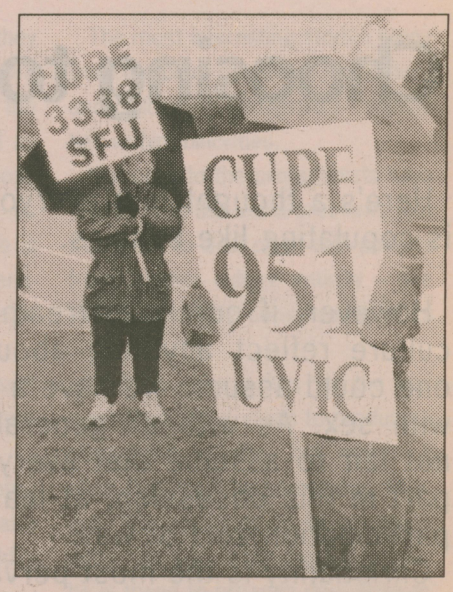
"Wherever there's a picket line, that's the end of the line for us," said Craig McCrimmon, second vice-president of the Independent Canadian Transit Union Local 11. "All we ask is that you let us know when it's going to go up – if you're aware of it – so that we can make arrangements for stewards to be there or to get the company to agree to turn the buses there."

The three universities that were contacted intend to remain open in the event of a strike after Jan. 30, but materials from UBC, UVic and SFU also said that the universities respect students' rights to honour a legal picket line.

"We endeavour to always offer classes to our students," added Paula Martin of UBC. "There's always a bit of an issue in getting on to the campus on time if there's a disruption. There's a little more flexibility."

"In the event of a strike, the university will remain open and operational as far as possible," said Kathryn Aberle, SFU's director of media and public relations, "which would mean that classes would carry on."

Three of the universities involved in the dispute have developed websites to aid students in dealing with inconveniences caused by a strike, while CUPE Local 951 at UVic has also been posting strike information on its site.



Support staff showing solidarity last November at UVic.

Martlet photo by Graham Winterbottom

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Peditorial

Choosing to abstain

Here's a thought: not everyone in North America is copulating like bunnies.

However, if our mainstream media and popular culture reflect anything about our society, then one could assume we have a sweeping obsession with sex. As with all generalizations, it's simply not fair to assume that everyone out there takes part in this obsession, at least not in a hands-on participation sort of way.

Christianity is the most pervasive religious belief system in our culture, and this provides somewhat of a contradiction to these mainstream definitions. As most people know, the Bible stipulates that everyone (minus those poor eternally-celibate souls) is to wait until marriage for sexual intercourse, and only then with a single partner.

This is obviously not reflected in tv and movies.

On the television show *Friends*, it is quite clear who is sleeping with whom – a lot of the humour is drawn from this premise. The characters often have sex with individuals they barely know, and there is nothing about this behaviour which indicates it is deviant or abnormal.

That's not to say such attitudes are morally questionable in any way, but the point is, while their behaviour is predominately monogamous, there is little consideration given to abstinence or limited sexual partners.

That 70's Show is another example. Much of the humour is based on the sexual desperation of adolescent men and the coy, if not clumsily seductive, role of their female peers.

In *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, which at one time was directed at an underage audience, the characters demonstrate that, once in college, there is nothing problematic with pre-marital sex, even those melodramatic "one-night-stands."

And let's not forget to mention commercials. Of course we all know that "sex sells." Why? is another question. Somehow, sex is an invaluable tool used to sell everything from toothpaste to automobiles.

All this implies is that social interaction is linked primarily to sexual intent. I'm sure most people understand the difference between this suggestion and what takes place in "real life," as we call it. However, these bombarding images prevail in a sense – we become accustomed to constant sexual references and possibly perceive every individual as a sexual outlet. Perhaps we need to consider that there is more to romantic relationships than "copulating like bunnies."

And all of these images, innuendoes and possibly subliminal messages can overlook the fact that there are many people out there who do not partake in this stylized behaviour, at least not in the form popular culture presents.

Those choosing to abstain have every right to, whether it is out of a sense of religious duty, a fear of parenthood, a lack of self-confidence or a desire to wait for the "right" person, and they deserve complete understanding and acceptance.

People make their own decisions based on their beliefs and experiences. Whichever choice they make, their actions need not be justified and should be accepted.

Editorial topics are decided upon by staff at editorial meetings on Mondays at 4:30 and are written by one or more members. Opinions are not necessarily those of all staff.

letters, letters, letters....

Redgwell is a "shit disturber"

Mark Redgwell's "student voice" was typically Redgwell. To use his own words it was "foolish, partisan, ideologically rigid and often ineffective." What I object to the most is his assertion that the February 2 National Student Strike is "doomed to disappoint." While it is fair to say that students are generally unaware of the basic tenants of the Access 2000 Campaign, it is also fair to say that they support it for the simple fact that they believe in accessible post-secondary education.

Furthermore, his broad-sweeping allegation that immigration, treaty rights, and child poverty have nothing to do with lobbying government for students demonstrates his fundamental lack of understanding of these issues. For immigrants, First Nations and the poor, accessibility to post-secondary education is integral to ending group marginalization. Unfortunately, this point is lost in his broad-sweep diatribe.

However, there are some similarities between the Canadian Federation of Students' Access 2000 Campaign and Redgwell. Both attempt to reach students about student issues and both put forth a position on the future of post-secondary education. The distinction, however, is where the CFS is focused on improving access for all Canadians, Mark is focused on being a shit disturber. (Trust me. I spent a few years at Camosun with him and now I live next door to the guy.)

If only he would jump off his fence and join the campaign. It could only make the movement that much stronger.

Troy Sebastian
(National Executive Aboriginal Representative, CFS)

Federal pillaging

NO TO THE HOCKEY SUBSIDY. IS THAT CLEAR? NO!

I'm very angry that this is even on the table. I have no illusions that politicians are handling tax money responsibly (I work at B.C. Ferries); however, this is the last straw.

Government is not a business. The organizations within government that provide the services should not generate a profit. I am opposed to all the handouts to big business because government money is not for "corporate welfare bums," it is for the people.

Government was created by the people to provide services that WE THE PEOPLE say we need. We want to be educated and healthy and we want our government, where we put our money, to provide that for us. Paying taxes creates a central pot of money to provide these services. The tax money is not to be spent on exotic travel, limousines and restaurant meals. Tax money, not a pool of money that politicians can use to create money making opportunities for themselves.

My family pays a lot of taxes. We work hard. My mom is still working at 75. We are fed up watching the taxes we pay being squandered.

Government policies have a direct and painful effect on my family. My mother was not able to get the rehabilitation she needed after her hip surgeries and as a result she limps badly and is unable to walk for exercise as much as she needs. Revenue Canada has drained her savings because of a ruling on the division of assets after my father disappeared and took everything. My younger brother was infected by Hepatitis C through a transfusion at the Jubilee Hospital and he is diabetic. He has been offered $3,000 in compensation. As badly as he needs the money, he laughed at that offer. He is unable to work and has joined the ranks of the poor. He lost his house. His health is deteriorating. Provincial welfare has been giving him a very hard time. My other brother, a construction worker, has his cheques taken by the government agency that gives the money to his ex-wife and daughter. Many months he is short of rent money and has not had a holiday in six years. His ex-wife and daughter have lived in Berlin and spent this Christmas in Barbados. My son is putting himself through university working three jobs and keeping straight "A" grades. We are not alone. Are you getting the picture?

Government does not serve the people anymore. Where do we go from here?

I used to watch Saturday night hockey years ago when it was family entertainment and a sport. Now, it is a brawl and very unpleasant. I do not consider this a Canadian cultural experience, nor a "national" sport, nor worthy of tax subsidy.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views, not just on the hockey subsidy, but on the fact that government has gone to hell in a handbasket.

Sandra Crosson

hey: *the Martlet* wants your feedback! Write letters, tell us what you think...

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the martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavor to print every letter received from members of the university community, with priority to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and phone number for verification. Letters must be 200 words maximum. Letters will be reviewed for libel at ***the martlet*** editorial meeting on the week of publication. Deadline for letters is the Friday noon before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order received. Letters will pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters will only be edited for spelling, grammar and length.

student voice

Mission: Orgasm

BY ANONYMOUS UVIC STUDENT

Probably the most surprising, even bemusing, part of the whole experience was realizing that I was going to learn how to orgasm from an elderly couple. They shared a psychiatry practice at the Medical Arts Centre on Pandora Street. The decision to talk to a specialist had been a big step in my life. Up to that point, I had only discussed sex with my boyfriend. Sitting across from this pair, who could have been my grandparents, it occurred to me that the step was bigger than I had thought.

Henry took a hardcover book out of the desk in front of him and opened it to a line drawing of the female sexual organs. Using a pencil, he pointed out the key features and described their role in stimulation. Then he demonstrated, with the aid of his fingers, how penetration should occur in order to produce orgasm.

Soon after he began speaking, his wife had slipped out through the door connecting to the office. She returned just as he was wrapping up.

"Okay, I think I'll let Joan take over from here," he said. After he had shut the door, Joan turned to me with a reassuring smile, and asked, "So, dear, do you masturbate?"

I stepped out of the medical centre with a folded piece of paper and a mission. I was going to learn how to masturbate. "Knowing how to orgasm begins with knowing how to stimulate yourself," Joan had said. The logic was simple and compelling.

Standing in the sexual health section of Munro's Books, I quietly marvelled at my courage. I was taking my time, scanning the titles. Eventually, I found my "prescriptions" and laid them face up on the counter. I even looked the cashier in the eye.

The books I bought are well known in the field of sexuality. The first, *My Secret Garden* by Nancy Friday is an anthology of women's fantasies. Joan recommended I buy this book in order to awaken my sense of eroticism. ("Fantasizing and masturbation go hand in hand"). The second book I bought was a step-by-step guide to female masturbation.

The end of the story is a happy one. By reading these two books at the same time, I was able to bring myself to orgasm some two weeks later. Three years later, however, I have yet to orgasm through intercourse. Its not a pressing issue in my life for now. When it is, I know I can do something about that, too.

Look for another "Sex Column" on page 20.

~Vive L'Apollo~

student voice

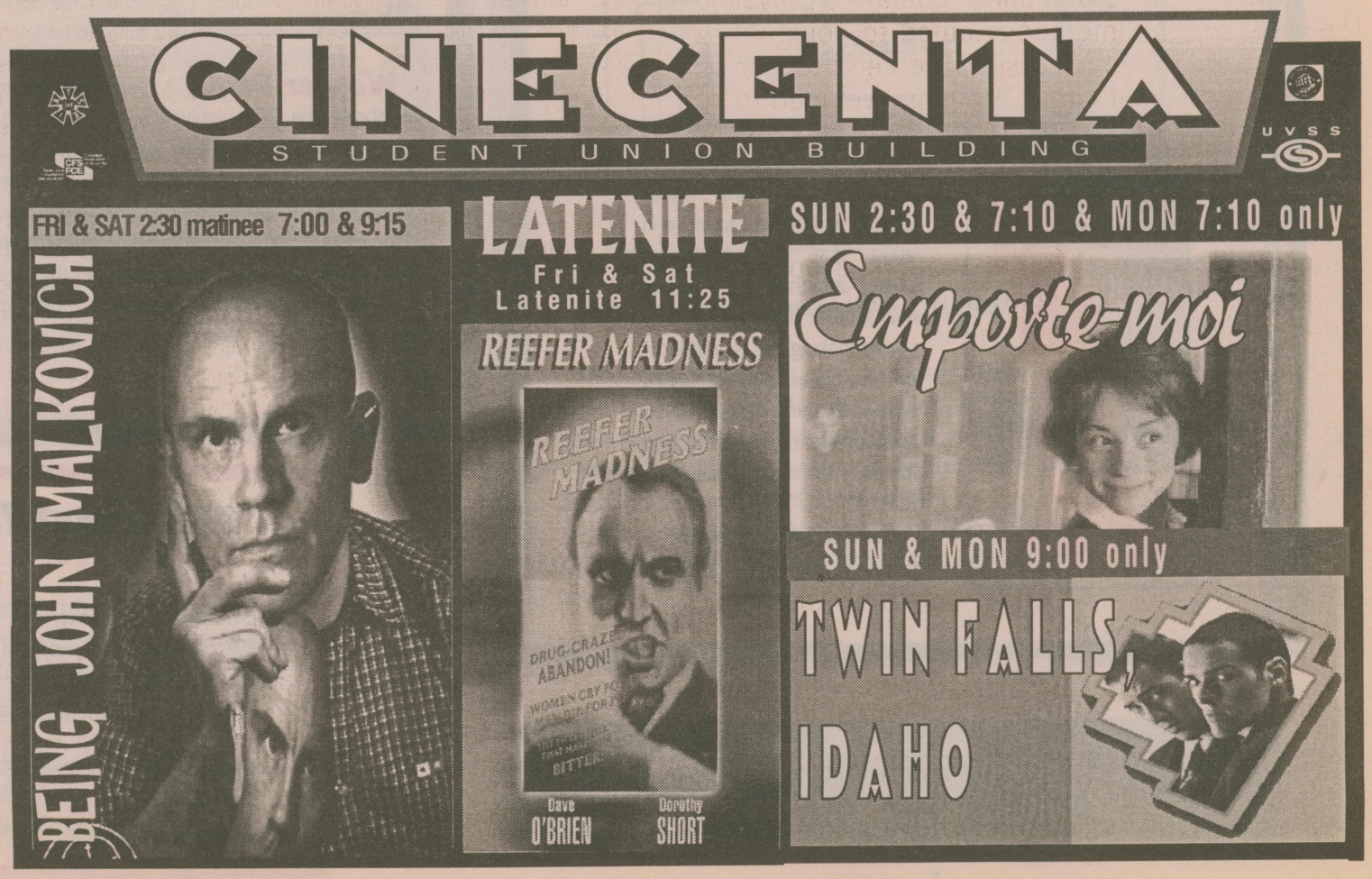
BY MISTRESS CHRIS

I first met the Apollo on July 12, 1998. I had just seen an Ani DeFranco concert and my friends (whom I had attended the concert with) took me on my maiden voyage to Womyns'Ware. A sales girl had informed them on the limitless merits of the Apollo and they passed on that recommendation to me. Upon our arrival at the store, we went directly to the vibrator section and began admiring the Apollo. I was instantly attracted to its sleek design, red head, and variable speed factor. However, I was still plagued with the shame of purchasing, wanting and (does this make me a failure as a woman?) needing a vibrator. I decided to deal with my issues later and had the Apollo boxed up and laid down my cash. I examined the box and noted the only warning for the product: do not use on unexplained calf pain. Was I so out of the loop that I wasn't aware of vibrator-to-calf sex play? Another issue altogether. I boarded the ferry with my 'boyfriend in a box' and began anticipating our first intimate encounter.

At home I quickly called my neighbour and gave him the good news: goodbye Handgela, hello Apollo. He made a beeline to my apartment and wanted the grand tour. I showed him the box warning and then unveiled the unit. He was stunned by the multi-speed head which has a full range of power with an easy twist of the red head. I ushered him out, wined and dined myself a little and then retired to the boudoir.

I can't say enough about my first, and every subsequent experience, with the Apollo. I've had multiple orgasms, really long orgasms and frankly, I've brought tears to my own eyes. I have slept beside my vibrator, have had it make an unannounced public appearance and I have a shirt which expresses my appreciation for all the love the Apollo has given me. Some people tell me that they don't need a vibrator. They have not met the Apollo. It travels well, knows my vagina like the back of its box and goes until I tell it to stop. It has never exhausted its batteries (although the speed range shrinks as the batteries age) and lulls me into an afternoon nap like no other can.

When I was first introduced to the Apollo I was stunned that at 24 I had never had a vibrator before. I now have a jar in my house called 'The Fund': it is a not-for-profit jar that I fill to make sure that every woman, on her 16th birthday, receives the gift that keeps on giving – a vibrator.



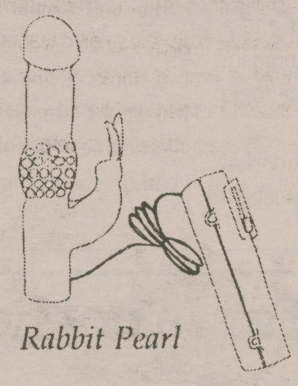
let's talk abou

A basic shopper's guide to accessorizing your s
sampling of sex products (dildo, dildos & more
the way we heard some entertainingly sassy &
the toys that work and the ones that sho

Toy Story:
A different kind of story

The Rabbit Pearl a.k.a. Bunny Lover: While the rabbit's ears flick your clit, the shaft rotates causing the pearls to roll. "I went to Womyns'Ware with three friends and we all walked out of the store with the same thing, all with smiles on our faces."

• Translucent pink, $139.85. Womyns'Ware



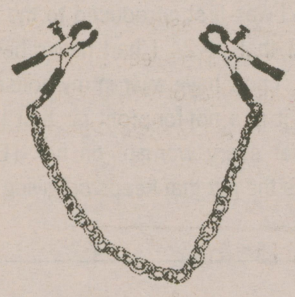
Rabbit Pearl

Apollo:

"I was instantly attracted to its sleek design, red head, and variable speed factor... I boarded the ferry with my boyfriend in a box and began anticipating our first intimate encounter. When I was first introduced to the Apollo I was stunned that at 24 I had never had a vibrator before."

• White with red tip, $33.85, Womyns'Ware

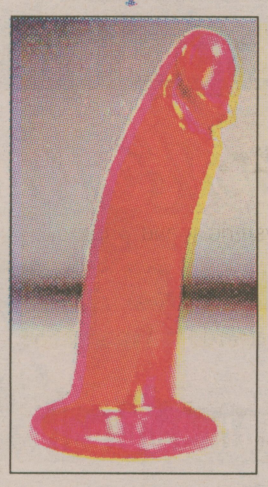
Alligator Clamps:



"The alligator clamps rock! They are adjustable, so that the tension on my nipples is always just right... and a little tug on the chain is fabulous. Besides feeling good, they look damn fine hanging off my tits. Like my piercer said, 'people are like birds, they're attracted to shiny objects.'"

• $29.85, Womyns'Ware

Champlette:



"The great thing about 'champ' is that he can move in ways that no penetrative object attached to a pelvis ever could. However, if what you're looking for is a little of the old bump 'n grind there's always the nifty harness. Also the fact that champ is silicone for easy cleaning is even better."

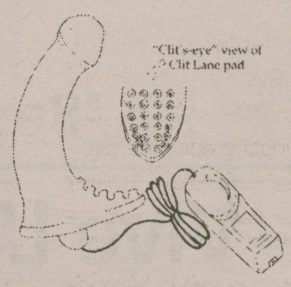
• $99.85, Womyns'Ware

The Good,

Clit Berry: This is pure genius. Slips onto a cock ring and is worn at the base of the penis or dildo, adding clitoral stimulation to penetration. So whether you're going solo, with a dill or a cock, you can add the stimulation you might be craving.

• Black, blueberry or raspberry swirl, $29.85, Womyns'Ware

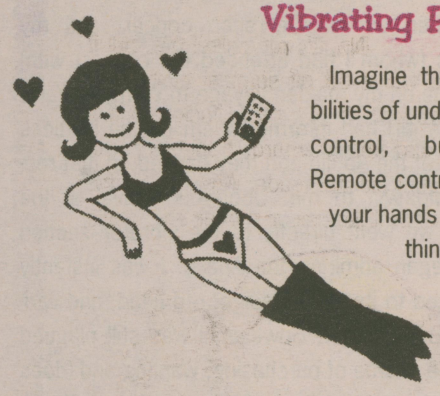
Clit Lane:



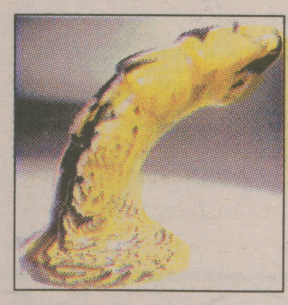
Combine the stimulation factor of the clit berry with a 5 1/2" silicone vibe with clit lane pad. The pad is 1 3/8" x 1 3/4." When you manipulate the shaft, the lane of vibrating nubs run along your clit. With the five year manufacturer's warranty on this number, you can use it till the cows come home.

•Licorice swirl, bubblegum or raspberry swirl, $149.85, Womyns'Ware

Vibrating Panties:



Imagine the endless possibilities of undies with a remote control, built-in vibrator. Remote control love. This way your hands are free for other things (or you can have a lot of fun with the wearer).



The Stinger: Great for the women who are looking for a non-realistic dill, but want to skip the goddess-dolphin-patchouli type weenie, it's perfect. "I felt like a crazy sex robot."

Wonder Pants: A spectacular award-winning idea (to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Good Vibrations*), for girl jocks the world over. They look like cycling shorts but with a hidden advantage: a jell-like two-lipped cradle for the lips & a teasing little lump for the vagina. What could make these babies even better, though, would be a pair of remote control Butterfly panties. These sassy shorts could get the laziest of lazy out on a bike. (Not sure if these babies are in production yet).

the

the Womb Broom

object. Imagine translucent da
with a round, bulbish head with
tles) Why would any woman wa
sexy, not stimulating, not eroti
feeling of those things (aliens,
and watch them slink down? Ag
this thing? Perhaps this thing w
of juvenile foreplay, or better ye
costume.

Ultimate True Skin

This apparently is the "newest
while. Every store we went
Trueskin™ or Cyberskin™ pro
as far as to attach a miniature
age to allow a feel. All I can say
istic' on a wrong turn.

Pink Cliterific:

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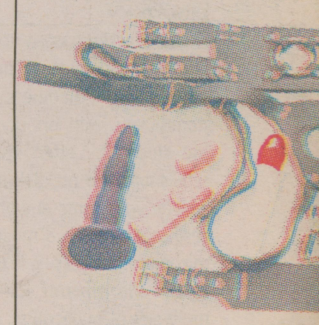

SpareWare

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(see thigh harness and wrist restraints in photos)

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logue. They also ma

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t sex toys, baby...

life. Two *Martlet* staffers went out to find a dos) - the good, the bad & the absurd. Along rprisingly printable quotes. Here's to finding be melted down into something useful.

ad

don't even know where to rt with this horrifying lue, about one foot long, blue tentacles (read bris- weep out her womb? Not too sticky. You know the bugs) you throw at a wall y would you want to fuck est be used as an object of next year's Halloween

Cornstarch will keep your ueskin™ feeling fresh." best" invention in a long prominently advertised One package even went o the outside of the pack- someone has taken 'real-

ow what is scarier about – the colour or the tex- translucent pink. Bright. ses these colours and faced with this question, see if this thing glows in no. Perhaps the purpose colour is to be able to find r full of black lingerie. Or e put too much thought colourful objects. The tex- es the colour – vaguely us and sweaty (yum), not bit titillating.

& the Absurd

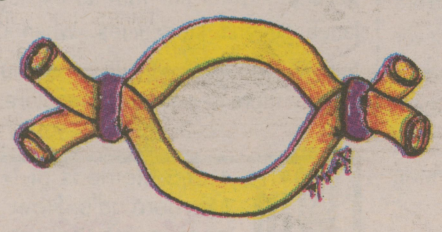
Sensuous with Taste Edible Undies & Lickum & Stickem Tastie Pastie:

I have never given much thought to edible underwear. Usually edible undies conjure up fuckerware parties, 70s sex swap parties or cheesy Valentine's Day presents – 'Hey honey, I got you some tasty panties.' I think of sexual innuendo titled, 'Creamy Banana,' chemical flavoured and scented g-strings with the sensuous tastes of chocolate swirl, maraschino twist, strawberry custard... Little did I know these babies can be more toxic than tasty.

Each box presents the arousal-diffuser that "use of this product may be hazardous to your health. This product contains saccharin which has been determined to cause cancer in laboratory animals." I suppose when you're ripping open the package with blinding sexual passion, the last thing you're thinking about is the cancer-causing saccharin used to make the panties, pasties or boxers.

Not having a chance to ask in the store, we had to leave the store wondering what "tastes better when properly worn" means.

Cowboy Cock Ring: No, it's not called this, but it greatly resembles a bolo tie made out of surgical tubing and beads. It looks cheap, destructible (if you could fuck with this thing once I'd be surprised), and wholly absurd. It should come with interchangeable fluorescent plastic beads. Why not go the extra mile, and get either a decent leather or rubber ring that's going to last.



Romeo Delight - Clitoral Stimulator:

Perhaps the Romeo and the Cowboy Cock Ring are made in the same quality-suspect factory. Cheap, pastel, trashy, pointless and possibly toxic. This product comes with a warning: "no contact with PVC or like fabric due to chemical conflict between the two plastic compounds." What about latex dams or condoms?

"Squirting Realistic Cock" with cum recipe. The cock that cums and cums. Cum recipe included. Okay, I get the point behind making a dildo realistic, as most penises do ejaculate, but the cum recipe is going down a path I don't care to follow. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the recipe without ordering this 'lil squirter. Oddly enough, the "really wet" pocket pussy we looked at next did not include a recipe.

goodies

now

eek, selling exotic orders from a catastom PVC clothing.

, Victoria, B.C.,

WomynsWare

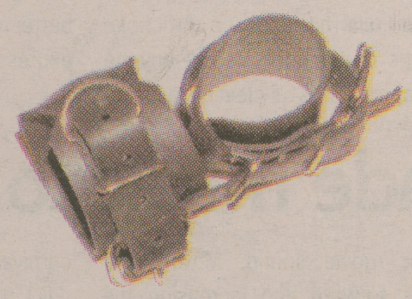
A women-owned shop in Vancouver catering to people looking for quality toys and information. Their stuff is available through the store, their catalogue and the net.

896 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, B.C.,
1-888-WYM-WARE
www.womynsware.com

How to:

A bondage playground: a quick and easy recipe

4 - three foot lengths of medium gauge steel chain
8 - double-snap clips or carabiners
any wrist and/or ankle restraints that you desire (best to invest in some well-made leather or vinyl restraints unless your desired effect is rope-burn)

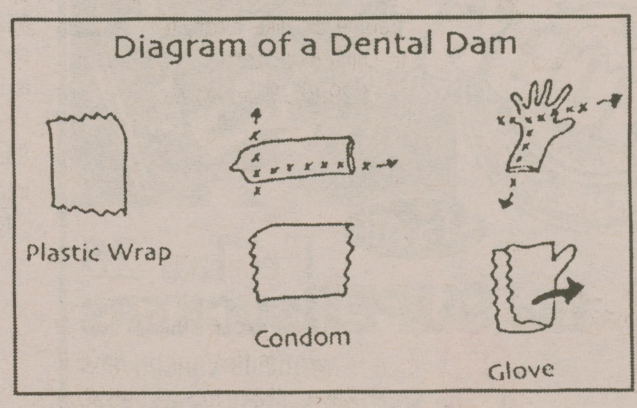


Loop the chain lengths around the legs or posts of your bed using the clips or carabiners to attach the end to one of the links a little way up the chain. This will make them easy to remove when you want to hide them. The chains can then be brought up onto the bed (or whatever you have attached them to) and the restraints can be attached anywhere along the lengths using the carabiners or double clips. The links in the chain make it easy to adjust the tension of the bondage and allow for height differences in the participants. Happy tie-down!

Everything except the restraints are available at local hardware stores. Womyns'Ware also carries all of the required hardware for a cost of approximately $46 plus tax and shipping. I'm sure the hardware store route is far more economical and would make for an interesting and exciting trip with your play partner.

Dental Dam creation

Dental dams are barriers used in oral sex (both vaginal and anal). There are some commercially available dams that you can occasionally find at sex shops, though it is quite easy to make your own. The sheet of vinyl, latex or rubber should be large enough to cover the vulva or anus and be easily held in place. Cut open a glove or condom to get a sheet of latex or use a piece of plastic wrap.

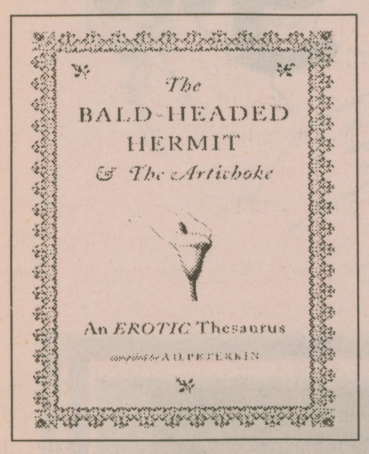


Sex on a Shoestring™ Undies

These ones are not toxic, poisonous or mysterious and you can have some fun in the making. If you can actually make and wear these sticky little numbers before eating them, we'll be surprised. What you need:
1 package of Shoestring licorice (of desired flavour) and imagination.
2 pieces for the waist (tied on the sides)
as many pieces as you desire, from the singular g-string to the elaborate bikini bottom. Try different styles and flavours.

researched & compiled by
meesha chan & christina harris

Cleverly crashing the yogurt truck



The Bald-Headed Hermit and the Artichoke
by A.D. Peterkin
Arsenal Pulp Press (Vancouver, B.C.), 1999.

BY ANN BEHENNAH

You know when you're at a loss for what to call a particular anatomical part? You know the scenario – it's romantic, both of you are getting busy, and you need to call "it" something. Usually your options are restricted to either a crude word or the biological term. However, grope no more, help is at hand with *The Bald-Headed Hermit and the Artichoke*, a brand-spanking new erotic thesaurus compiled by Toronto psychiatrist and journalist, A.D. Peterkin.

The Bald-Headed Hermit and the Artichoke is a unique guide to the lingo of sex, compiling over 15,000 terms relating to all aspects of human sexuality, from breasts and penises to fetishes, paraphernalia and specific erotic practices. Taken from American, British and Canadian sources, this lexicon offers varied and imaginative interpretations of sexual experiences that are alternately literary, humourous and shocking, while providing unusual insight into how western culture views sexual pleasure.

Chock full of sample usages, socio-cultural observations, photographs and etymologies, *The Bald-Headed Hermit and the Artichoke* belongs in the bookcase of anyone who appreciates a cleverly expanded vocabulary. The categories are alphabetically arranged according to body part, action, or euphemism and make reference easy.

How divine to murmur adulations about someone's "columns of Venus," "twin lovelies" or "Sir Martin Wagstaff." Insult a lecher with "profligate," "mammy-jammer" or "mucky pup." Excuse yourself to "point Percy at the porcelain," "have a jimmy" or "see a star about a twinkle." Take time to "jack your beanstalk," "throttle Kojak" or "phone the czar." Or, "drink at the fuzzy cup," "receive holy communion" and "cream your silkies."

Both culturally significant and thoroughly outrageous, *The Bald-Headed Hermit and the Artichoke* seeks to amuse and inform. These are the "rude" words for which we have all been searching so fruitlessly in every dictionary since grade three. What better way to enhance your sexual expression. Sock it to me, Buddha!

American-made music to strip by

Rob Zombie
American Made Music to Strip By
Universal / Geffen

BY JAMIE PALMER

Derived from his first solo effort, *Hellbilly Deluxe*, by the former White Zombie frontman, this cd features remixes of his stylish '50s B-grade horror movie sound. Moving the vocals forward and increasing the beat, while having enough common sense to leave the riffs intact, produces a great sound that actually amplifies the music. In contrast to *Super Sexy Swingin' Sounds*, there is enough interesting original material to make the reconfigured versions compelling.

Similar-minded Charlie Clouser of Nine Inch Nails (NIN) cranks out reawakened versions of "Dragula," "Superbeast," and "Living Dead Girl" which contain more life and spirit than the originals. Likewise, Chris Vrenna of NIN produces a superior version of "Return of the Phantom Stranger" that is worthy of the best carnival's haunted house.

DJ Lethal remixes "Meet the Creeper" into a convincingly threatening sound apart from the usual cartoony nature of the contemporary glam-band. As well, Rammstein and Philip Steer (formerly of Consolidated) produce anvil-heavy mixes that contrast the sexy, sleazy triple-X fun of "What Lurks on Channel X" by the Spacetruckers.

Poly 915 remixes "Demonoid Phenomenon," infusing a classic rave jackhammer beat and mirrors the fact that Zombie's songs never begin with Mike Riggs' guitar work. A result of Rob's creative development is that he always begins songs with either drums or the classic B-movie sampling.

The Zombie's music has not generically fit any classification, spanning from metal to pop, and has not been dynamic in its formal composition. It is undeniably cheesy in content and inconsistent in audience. However, the meaningful message remains intact: just fuckin' have fun!

Rating: 69 (We know that's good).

HBO and lots of sex

BY MARGARET SPEIRS

From anal sex to vibrators, no topic is too outrageous for HBO's *Sex and the City*. Based on the book by Candace Bushnell, the weekly sex-epic follows a group of four single, 30-something friends who search for love and marriage in Manhattan while sleeping with every man in their path.

Sarah Jessica Parker is Carrie, a sex column writer who has a passion for shoes, and spends her time trying to understand the single life. Kim Cattrall is Samantha, owner of her own public relations company, who has learned to "fuck like a man" by keeping control over her emotions. Kristin Davis is Charlotte, an art gallery owner and the most conservative one of the group. Cynthia Nixon is Miranda, a lawyer who is the most cynical one and doesn't trust men.

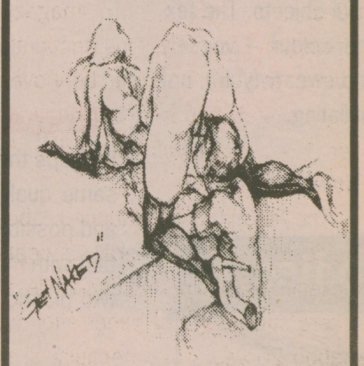
Examples of their sex partners include 20-year-old men, the fuck buddy, Mr. Big (Carrie's personal favourite), and Samantha's 60-year-old almost lover, who had "the lips and hands of a young man but unfortunately had the ass of an old man."

Sex and the City never ceases to go one step farther with its explicit language and story lines. When it seems that there couldn't possibly be any more sex topics to explore, the writers find another one. Scripts are excellent with blunt, often hilarious dialogue, always depicting a unique aspect of single life. When dating a 27-year-old Miranda declares: "We're not dating, it's a fuck thing." When Charlotte befriends some wealthy lesbians, Carrie tells her that she has to tell them she's straight. Once one of her new friends asks, she explains how she has enjoyed the feminine camaraderie that she has felt with them. She is told that's all nice and well but, "If you don't eat pussy, then you're not a dyke."

In another episode, Charlotte's boyfriend of two weeks announces he wants the two of them to have anal sex. Unfortunately, she has reservations about becoming the 'up-the-butt-girl.' Samantha's reaction is simple: "Front, back, a hole is a hole."

The cast is excellent. Each actress brilliantly portrays a complex character full of contradictions. Although it is hard to relate to a lifestyle that consists of fancy parties and the financial ability to afford $400 shoes, the show does touch on a variety of complex relationship factors that we all can relate to. Parker picked up a well-deserved Golden Globe Award last Sunday, and the show won for Best Comedy Series.

Win 1 of 5 Methods of Mayhem cd's. How appropriate that their first single would be ***Get Naked*** and this contest would run in our sex issue. Come down to the martlet office (SUB B011) to pick up your copy.



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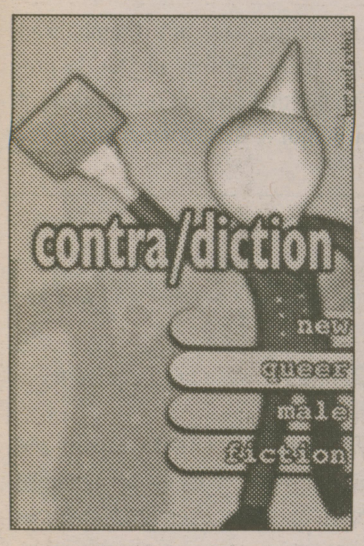
Highlighting humanity through dark stories



BY DANIEL SILVERMAN

VANCOUVER (CUP) – One problem with being gay, argues Brett Josef Grubisic, is that the media represents one very narrowly. To combat this, Grubisic has put together *contra/diction*, an anthology of short stories about being gay.

The book seems to explore the darker side of homosexuality, but what Grubisic has really done is show that homosexual men can be just as violent, vengeful and sardonic as any hetero. In short, gays are human too.

Grubisic, an English Ph.D. student at the University of British Columbia, says the theme of the anthology took shape on its own. When he put out the call for submissions, he was surprised at what he got. "I was hoping to get a greater variation," he said, "but a lot of writers were self-centering." Grubisic got everything from science-fiction to pornography to literature.

He had been hoping to get some stories by women, but the stories were all by men, mostly homosexual, *talking about their own experiences.*

The first story in the anthology, "The Relative Bargain" by George Ilsley, opens with a boy sitting on his knees on a rug, blindfolded and naked except for a jockstrap.

The story is from the point of view of a man who makes use of the sports store where he works to manipulate young men into performing sexual acts.

This is not the sort of thing you will see in "Will and Grace" or other film and television depictions of homosexuality: this is the real nitty-gritty.

"Ez-Carrasco," shows the very messy break-up of two Hispanic lovers.

One is already married when they begin their affair, but there is a more significant infidelity. In fact, the *women in this story are treated as* worthless and hateful to gays, mostly because they see the men as unnatural. So, the real issue here is a fling with another man. The offended lover eventually takes his revenge during a last infected embrace.

This is definitely not the usual stuff. It is shocking, but it should not be.

"Most [book] covers are sepiated pastels showing two men sitting at a table," said Grubisic. "It's just middle-class angst."

Here the lower classes are shown: the addicts, the criminals, the prostitutes, the marginalised who have dropped out of public perception.

The most interesting stories come from the point of view of immigrants and children of immigrants – minori*ties within minorities.*

Not only do the protagonists have to deal with the usual problems, but they have to deal often with parents from another culture entirely – one that is staunchly conservative in its outlook.

Grubisic, who writes for the gay newspaper *Xtra!*, plans to produce a companion volume, but makes it clear that it will be something different. "It's not going to be a carbon copy," he said, while making it clear he is trying to broaden depictions of homosexuality in mainstream culture. "Being gay is still a political act."

The politics of penetration depicted in film

BY ARIEL TROSTER

MONTREAL (CUP) – The woman bends over, languorously sticking out her tongue, grabbing onto the phallic object and sucking it into her mouth.

While the image may seem like typical heterosexual pornography, this one is different. The object is made of silicone, and it is being held by a woman. The scene is taken from *Classy Cunts*, a lesbian porn film produced and directed by two Montreal university students – and specifically designed to titillate the female viewer.

While the mere suggestion of penetration was taboo 20 years ago...lesbians are now snapping up sex toys like hot cakes

Flipping through a copy of *On Our Backs*, a lesbian porn magazine from San Francisco, one encounters similar images: a woman bent over a car being fucked from behind, another woman playfully fingering her lover's dildo.

The scenarios mentioned above indicate a shift in generally accepted lesbian sexual practices. While the mere suggestion of penetration was taboo 20 years ago because of the resemblance to heterosexual sex, lesbians are now snapping up sex toys like hot cakes, with no end in sight.

Diane Heffernan, a filmmaker who has documented the Montreal lesbian community since 1972, said that until recently there were few images of lesbian sexuality, so the topic was rarely discussed. "Women were reticent to get into the mechanics," she said. "You didn't actually know what they were doing [in their bedrooms]."

In fact, Heffernan pointed out that the mantra was more like "the private is political." Because there was no public forum for comparison, lesbian sexual practice still remained a bit of a mystery – even to the women who were involved.

Still, phallic sex toys are not a '90s invention. As Heffernan explained, the butch/femme movement of the '50s and '60s pre-dated the silicone revolution. As lesbianism became increasingly politicized in the late '70s a discussion raged through Canada: the great pornography debate. Feminists argued that porn oppressed women, and lesbians generally agreed.

In 1981, Bonnie Klein produced the film, *Not a Love Story*, exposing the ugly underworld of the porn industry in both Montreal and New York. The National Film Board documentary was unrelenting in its criticism of the industry.

Seven years later, Heffernan stirred controversy when she made one of the first widely shown lesbian porn films in Montreal, called *Orgasmes à la crème fouetté.*

The film raised eyebrows in Montreal, and in Paris it started a minor riot with women throwing chairs at the screen.

Heffernan said she felt compelled to make the video because sado-masochistic depictions of lesbian sex didn't resonate with her. The film didn't incorporate sex toys, but it still ruffled feathers. While Heffernan appreciated the ensuing debate, she has since decided to stop showing the film because of the tremendous emotional impact it had on her life.

Last spring, the creators of *Classy Cunts* further challenged the faceless nature of pornography, screening the film in an intimate club setting with the actors present to mingle and answer questions.

Emily W. and Jane M., the creators of the film, conceived of the project last year in a queer theory class at McGill. After watching films depicting images of gay male sex, the two students discovered that there was a lack of material geared toward lesbian women.

The film received a generally favourable response from the lesbian community, both at the premiere, and at Image & Nation, Montreal's gay and lesbian film festival, stated Emily.

Still, some questioned the image of a woman sucking on a dildo.

Emily denied that the image fed into male fantasies of lesbian sex, calling the scene "transgressive." Although she admitted that before making the film she had never met anyone who engaged in this type of play, she said the scenario was meant to challenge conventions of gender and sexual orientation.

Lori Selke, editor of *On Our Backs*, agreed with Emily's assertion. She said that the magazine's pictorial spreads, which include both realistic and non-representational dildos, receive a mixed response from the community.

"*On Our Backs* envisions itself as a revolutionary forum for lesbian sex," said Selke. So the only criteria when choosing scenarios is to show "what women are really doing."

"There's a perception that the media creates images, but *On Our Backs* does quite the opposite. It simply reflects what's already happening," she said.

Despite this, Selke doesn't ignore the political implications of phallic sex toys. In fact, she sees them as empowering. Still, Selke stressed that "sex toys are simply that – toys."

Kelly Waters, an employee at a female-owned and operated sex store in Toronto, said dildos blur gender lines, expanding women's sexual horizons and encouraging confidence. And sometimes this confidence seeps out of the bedroom and into the boardroom. Waters said dildos allow women to become both the masters and mistresses of their domain.

"Now we're the ones doing the penetrating," she said.

The question is, do women need penises to obtain power in male dominated arenas?

"The phallus has represented power," she said. "Power is sexy, and feminism hates that. Activism is about redefining power."

While Heffernan said she's encouraged by the wealth of lesbian sexual imagery available today, she says women should continue to question those images.

Heffernan said that there may be a connection between increased acceptance of phallic sex toys, and the current trend of women coming out as "queer," rather than as "lesbian."

"'Lesbian' used to be the worst insult a man could inflict on a woman," Heffernan said. "We reclaimed the term. We fought for it."

Heffernan described an encounter she had with a group of women protesting against a gay bar's refusal to accept women. When she asked them why they were so desperate to infiltrate an all-male space, they said "gay men invented sexuality."

Heffernan is quite sure that women are capable of figuring it out on their own.

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The Martlet's guide to porn on the Internet

The Martlet decided to send two reviewers "out" to check out what's available as far as cheap Internet porn goes. One went home and hid under his bed, and the other... well, We're glad that he didn't have any credit cards.

BY JULIUS DAVIES

1. http://www.pornopark.com

I went blind. And not in the good way. The opening enticing window was green and yellow. I especially found the vernacular offensive – flowers near my computer screen started to wilt. Not a single pleasant word was to be found anywhere. Not a single "please" or "thank-you." I suppose "kitten" would have been nice if it hadn't been near all those other words.

I only tried the free tour. The naked ladies were, well, naked.

2. http://www.xxx-scout.com

Sex tutorials ("how to suck cock," "how to eat pussy") with hard-core visual aids. The writing in the tutorial bits is sugary and condescending. The webmaster considers himself enlightened. Annoying.

But the pictures next to the text is quite something else. I was aroused and amused and whoops, pen slipped.

A few of the tutorials didn't have any pictures, such as the ones on swinging and on female ejaculation. In these cases the webmaster's tone got very annoying. He (or she) really thinks they're better than other people. Ha! And now no one at UVic is ever going to visit your site, sucker, cuz you offended this reviewer.

Well, I kinda liked it. Tonnes of free hard-core pictures, next to some pretty funny how-to-have-sex writing.

3. http://sextracker.com

A resource. Bashing this site would be like bashing altavista or webcrawler. Well, I will bash it, because Internet porn scares the shit out of me. How dare anyone assemble a site which tries to index and link thousands of porn sites!

BY SCOTT ROBERTS

1. http://www.sexypost.com

Here it is. One of the only TRULY free porn sites that I have ever found on the Internet, anywhere. The Internet porn industry is easily the most technologically advanced segment of the on-line population. Faster, bigger and higher quality mean only one thing: increased revenue. Unfortunately none of these rules apply here. This site is free. But don't let that dissuade you. They get hundreds of new photos every day. But that is all you get, more free photos than you can shake the proverbial stick at.

The only drawback to this site is that photos are not thumbnailed (when there are mini photos to preview) but that doesn't really matter if you've got a fast connection.

2. http://www.adultcheck.com

This site is not really a porn site per se. What it is, is an umbrella group of other sites that you can access by purchasing a single membership. Maybe the best deal on the net. $19.95 gets you one year's membership, $29.95 gets you 2 years, and for $76.95 you can get a lifetime membership.

The sites mainly consist of thumbnailed photographs. So if you are looking for goodies like webcams, you're gonna have to spend a lot.

Mens' magazines catch bambi in the headlights

BY DENISE ING, ALLEEN MIRAKIAN & JESS MERBER

TORONTO (CUP) – The story goes this way: A young girl dreams of stardom in Hollywood. She makes her way there, and through girl-next-door good looks and sweet demeanor, she gets the pivotal screen test that takes her to a good teen sitcom or drama or whatever. The young starlet is satisfied with the adoration of teenage boys until she realizes that there is more to life than being a starlet: like being sexy. In an attempt to prove her budding sexuality, she: a) has an affair with an old man b) poses for *Playboy* c) poses for the cover of *Maxim*.

If you picked c), you're right. More and more wholesome starlets are exposing their nubile bodies for the titillation of young boys and grown boys alike.

In the early years of cinema, the girl-next-door was just that.Leaving the stereotype behind was difficult, if not impossible. Recall, if you will, the case of Mary Pickford, an actress who was never able to shake her girl-next-door image. Even into her forties, Pickford was playing the kind of sweet ingenue who saved her family from ruin just by being really sweet.

The trend continued until relatively recently. Recall, if you will, the case of Molly Ringwald. The favourite of 80s teen flicks and John Hughes, she tried to make a comeback as a mature actress by downplaying the red in her hair. Needless to say, she failed. If only she knew that all it took to make the transition to grownup bombshell was to show her assets on a men's magazine.

Surprisingly, *Maxim* cover girls like Jennifer Love Hewitt and Melissa Joan Hart are all titillation and no action. They pose with just a hint of breast and a hint of ass while having a "Bambi caught in the headlights" look on their faces. *Maxim* and similar magazines seem to go out of their way to find covers whose images fly in the face of their sexualized pose. Hence the inclusion of "Posh Spice," Victoria Adams, whose image is a lot more reserved than her more-willing-to-bare-all counterpart Geri Halliwell, who has never done such a cover. *Maxim* has yet to showcase a woman like L'il Kim or Madonna, that is, a woman who brazenly bares her assets without that guilty pleasure aspect for the viewer.

So what's the difference?

Madonna and L'il Kim are very different creatures from the teen-identified set. Each is a mature woman with a firm grip on her sexuality and, if there's one thing for sure, neither portrays herself as innocent on prime time television and a vamp-in-training in print. There's absolutely no fun in deconstructing this singular image because, frankly, after Madonna's *Sex* book and any one of L'il Kim's songs, there's no sweet, girlish image to deconstruct. These two are examples of women who are in control of their sexy perception and image. There are many of these types of women out there in the world. Ask around. You may find yourself with one's pager number.

Whether we want to admit it or not, the Maxim cover influences the way we see young starlets. Since her cover, who has been able to see *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* as the wide-eyed innocent who has regular problems with her teenage boyfriend Harvey?

Not only has it encoded the dialogue of the show, it has influenced the way we interpret the actor. It no longer gives the reader/viewer a consistent view of the actor: instead, it demonstrates the marketing campaign behind what *Maxim* (and, in part, by *Maxim*'s readers) think is sexy. Instead of breaking a stereotype, these cover subjects are included in another. Is this the future for the nubile young things? Why can't they be seen as girl-next-door, sexy, and intelligent? Is there a reason we can't interpret the subject as multi-faceted?

If we look around, however, there are a few of the younger Hollywood set who have managed to escape the cover girl curse. Natalie "Queen Amidala" Portman has yet to do one of these shoots. For the movie Anywhere but Here, she was required to do a nude scene, but refused, stating that she was not ready to drop her drawers, despite the fact that she was 18 years old. The covers that she has been on are the covers of *Mademoiselle* and *Vanity Fair*.

On the other hand, Natalie Portman is not identified with the teen celebrity machine. While she does get the odd write-up for wearing something fabulous to an opening, her reputation is built on her work, rather than the efforts of her marketing gurus. Not only has she turned in consistently intelligent performances since her screen debut in The Professional, but she has also never appeared in lesser fare, preferring to save her talents for films worthy of her name.

And she's not alone. Christina Ricci proves time and again that her talent is only matched by her fierce intelligence, despite repeated media comments about her dumpiness (she wears a size two!). Even Claire Danes' loopy public image has never led her to pose in big hair and a thong.

Is she better off than the starlet squad? We don't know for sure. One thing we can say is that if starlets like Noxzema girl Rebecca Gayheart and *She's All That*'s Rachel Leigh Cook want to exude real sexiness, they should try showing off a better film portfolio as opposed to their physical assets.

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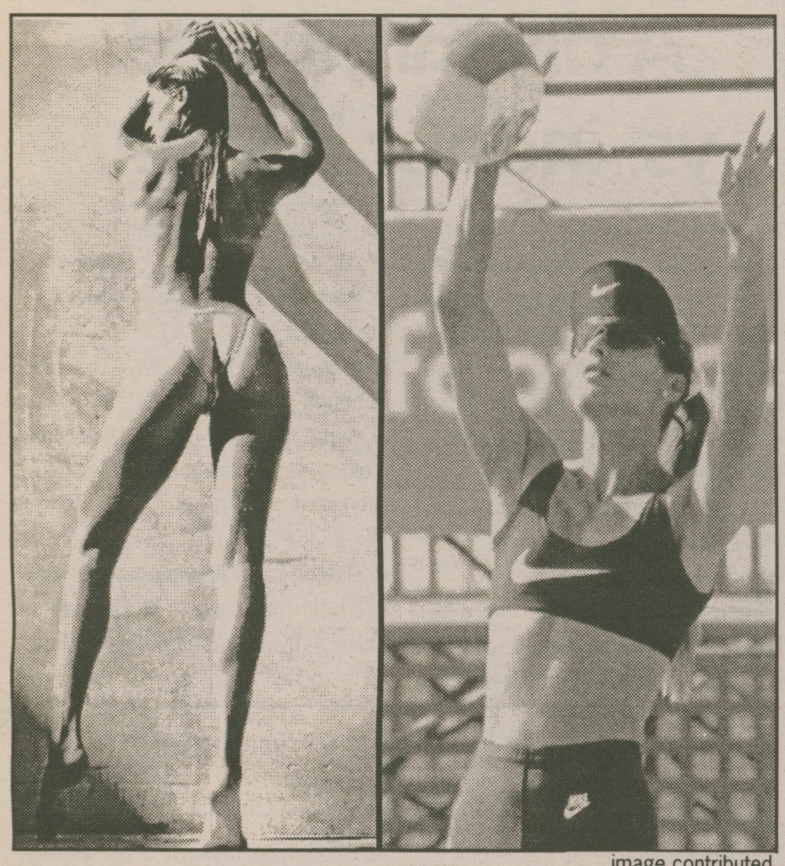

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Sports Call

BY PATTI EDGAR

Sex sells. Cars, beer, cola... and now, womens' sports.

A woman bouncing up and down in a bikini top on the beach with a volleyball, or the frilly undies of a woman reaching up to serve on the tennis court are the kind of images that capture audiences that wouldn't otherwise watch the sport. Next, are television broadcasting deals with hungry networks and advertisers selling cars, beer and cola. Then, for the women in the sport who have the looks, but not necessarily the skills, there are lucrative marketing contracts.

In last January's issue of *Marketing Magazine*, writer David Menzies put it simply:

"A bit of t&a could create a domino effect in which everybody wins: the fans, the broadcasters, the advertisers and ultimately the game itself. Put another way, *Baywatch* isn't a world-wide success thanks to its superb acting."

It seems pretty obvious what's wrong with using sex appeal to turn people on to womens' sports. Skill, not breast size, should be the focus of discussion about female athletes. It's sexist, demeaning and just plain pathetic that marketers can say we live in a society that needs a little tantalizing before people are willing to give women's' sports anything close to the attention they give mens' sports. It's even more disgusting that advertisers are making money off images of scantily clad women in the name of "sport."

Yet, last year the Federation Internationale de Volleyball dictated that women wear either firm fitting bikinis, no more than six centimetres wide along the hips, or one piece swimsuits with open backs and upper chest while chasing volleyballs in the sand.

Even Gabrielle Reece, the covergirl of beach volleyball who has posed in lingerie for photographs, has ventured to say publicly that this might not be cool.

"People want to be unemotional enough to say okay, and not say this is a sexist thing. Even though it is a little bit sexist," she told *the National Post* in June.

For those who think a little sexism is okay if it draws fans to the game (even drooling ones with no interests in spikes), then why don't we use the same principle to draw fans to mens' sports. Marketers could draw more women to mens' sports by making soccer players wear spandex or basketball stars wear hotpants. Sounds ridiculous, but we might not be too far off from those kinds of decrees.

It's not only women who are affected by the trend to sell sports with sex. At last year's Labatt Blue Pro Beach Tournament in Toronto the judges had a pair of scissors on hand to chop the shorts of male players whose togs were less than 20 centimetres above the knee.

Both men and women players' skill at the sport should be enough to capture the attention of sports fans. They really don't need the additional exposure.

To abstain or not to abstain?

BY DENA VANDALFSEN

In the sports world it can be equated to the mind-numbing question, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?"

There is no absolute answer, but a recent study suggests that sex before a sporting event could benefit rather than hinder an athlete's performance.

Emmanuele Jannini of the University of L'Aquila in Italy told the *International Journal of Andrology* that an increase is the rise of sexual activity is accompanied by an increase in the male hormone testosterone. It is testosterone that makes men aggressive and this high level of aggression can be advantageous in competition the next day.

The study, which is contrary to the widely held belief that men should abstain from sex before sporting events to conserve energy, only addresses male athletes who play sports in which aggressiveness is an asset.

Not all medical professionals believe in the rule of abstinence. "Before you believe that love-making before an athletic competition will sap your energy realize that the Buffalo Bills were separated from their wives before four Super Bowl games. And you know their record: four and zero," said Dr. Gabe Mirkin, a sports medicine specialist, in the *National Post*.

There are some notable athletes who ignore the rule to abstain. After receiving gold at the1992 Albertville Olympics, Canadian downhill skier Kerrin Lee-Gartner was quoted saying; "[Max and I] made good vibrations for the race." Another story goes back to the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

Bob Beamon tried something new and had sex the night before a major competition. Beamon feared he had lost his chances for Olympic gold, but the 22-year-old American jumped 29 feet 2.5 inches beating the world record by nearly two feet.

If anyone, the late basketball star Wilt Chamberlain and his claim to have been with 20,000 women, shows that sex can accompany an athlete to the top of his game.

Some people are quick to dismiss the new findings. "What a bunch of crap," said Ron Wilson coach of the NHL's Washington Capitals, in the *National Post*. "What about guys who [masturbate]? That doesn't count?"

It is believed that celibacy allows an athlete to focus energy and make it available for the game. Boxing heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali was celibate up to six weeks before a fight. The 1998 Brazilian World Cup soccer team did not allow visits from wives and girlfriends.

Dr. Elizabeth Abbot author of *A History of Celibacy* traced anecdotal evidence of athletes abstaining back to the Greek Olympics. "...If you're not discharging energy in sex you are somehow hoarding it in your body and releasing it into sports," said Abbott.

However there is no actual proof that abstinence has any effect positive or negative. The act of sex itself is not the problem. The average sexual encounter burns four calories a minute. Not enough to exhaust a trained athlete. The problem lies in the pursuit of sex and it is the wild lifestyles that are not good for performance.

The issue has not been resolved. Some people believe in abstinence. Some don't. The key is moderation. A maxim to live by: sex before six.

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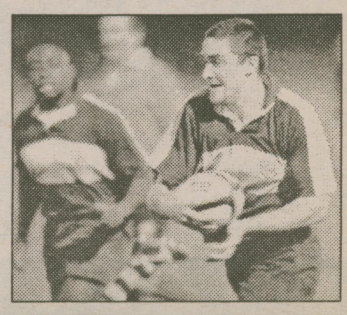

721-8406 www.uvic.ca/vikes

Derek Porter focuses on UVic Erg and Australian Olympics

BY CRAIG BATTLE

In the fall of his second year at the University of Victoria, Derek Porter decided to start rowing.

Born in Ireland, brought up in Victoria, he had been active in soccer, cross country and track and field in high school, and took up rowing on the advice of a friend. It was 1986 and Porter was a novice on the UVic rowing crew.

Three years later he was training with the national team. In two more, he was part of the gold-medal winning eight-man Canadian boat at the '92 Barcelona Olympics.

"Originally, I was just looking for something else to do when I came to UVic," Porter says.

The 6'5", 19-year-old moved quickly up the ranks from novice, to junior varsity, then on to varsity-level rowing within that first year. But more than the sport, Porter enjoyed the team. He relished the "automatic-family" feel and experiences of the UVic crew.

"Good memories. Road trips over to Vancouver, racing UBC, lots of partying, hazing and all that kind of stuff," he says, "back in the good old days when we could do initiation."

Even as a novice, Porter was in contact with much of the national team. Both UVic and the national crew train on Victoria's Elk Lake. As well, the UVic varsity squad made up a big portion of the national team.

"It was a pretty ideal environment to start out rowing. It gave me something tangible to shoot for, rather than it being a pie-in-the-sky dream where you don't know what it would take or what the athletes are like at the top."

Porter knew he wanted to pursue a rowing future. He earned a seat in the Canadian eight-man boat in '90, during the summer following his graduation from UVic. He rowed with the same crew for three years leading up to the gold-medal performance at the '92 Olympics.

Porter, now 32, labels the Barcelona victory as the highlight of his career.

Following the Olympics Porter made the switch from sweeping to single sculling, as the core of the Canadian eight had finally split. He also switched to the single because he calls it one of the two "glamour" events – "the fastest person in the water." The other event being the eight.

"I came home and hit it. Usually you need a couple months to recharge your batteries, but it was a bit of a novelty at the time."

Derek Porter flashes a thumbs up after winning gold at the 1999 Pan-American Games.

photo contributed

In his first year as a sculler, Porter took gold at worlds. Then after dividing his time between training and Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto for two years, he took silver at Atlanta in '96.

Porter spent the last while completing his Chiropractic degree, and is once again focused solely on rowing. He logs 200 kilometres per week on the water, which he says is "relatively high." Adding in weights and cross-training sessions, he completes three workouts a day, six days a week.

Pat Newman, Porter's coach since the fall of last year, says the training has developed the rower's consistency.

"At the start, we divised a training program and figured out how much time he needed to spend to cover everything," Newman said.

Although the rigid schedule allows little time for Porter's social life, he doesn't feel it's a huge sacrifice to make.

"I don't go out and get totally plastered too often. I go out for dinner, have a drink or two – wine, something mellow. I'm getting old you know," he jokes.

At the upcoming Monster Erg rowing championship held in UVic's McKinnon Gym, Porter will gage how well his training is going. The Erg is a large-scale event involving several ergometer rowing machines, and an internet link to Toronto that creates dry-land races between groups of people in both Ontario and British Columbia.

Porter plans to take up to five seconds of his own dry-land national record 5:46.4 set at last year's Erg.

Current world champion New Zealander Rob Waddell holds the world record on the Erg at 5:38.6.

"He's my main guy that I'm looking out for in the Olympics," said Porter. "I think I have a better chance of beating him on the water than on an ergometer."

Porter will not be shooting for Waddell's dry-land mark on Sunday, Feb. 6. He is focused on gold alone, not records.

"The only thing that matters to me at the Olympics is winning – the time means nothing."

And Porter is just waiting for the chance.

"I'll be ready," he says. "I think I'm sculling technically better than I have in my whole life."

After the Australian Olympiad Porter is "95 per cent sure" he'll retire from the sport. He's ready to start developing his own Chiropractic practise, and the three days a week he works now at Murray Chiropractic in Victoria isn't enough.

"I'm not really good at doing anything half-ass."

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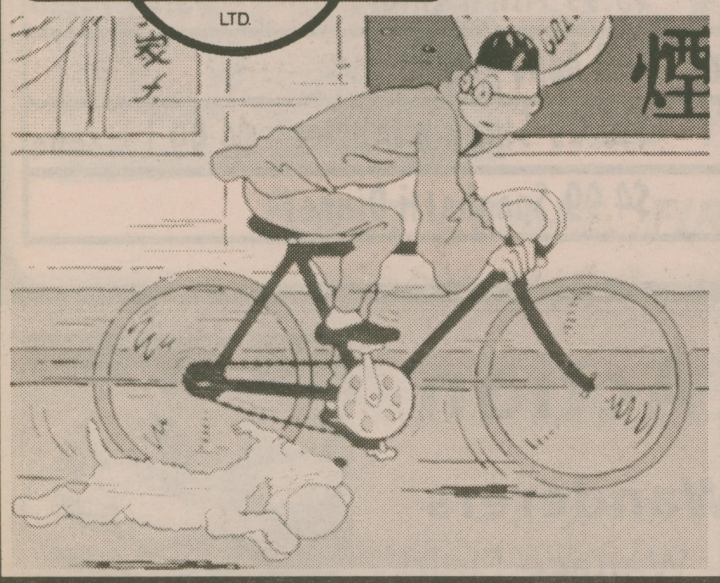

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A dilemma: bed vs. indoor hockey

BY MAYA SAMSON

The sticks and balls and sweaty bodies (remember: this has nothing to do with the sex theme) I experienced this weekend could have been characters in a story far different from the one I'm about to tell. At the UVic Women's Indoor Field Hockey Tournament I saw many people score, many come very close and as usual I got no play.

My role as an observer and a fan began too early on Saturday morning when the Vikes, coming off of a tournament victory at UBC, took on Cowichan at Gordon Head. Against my better judgment I had been drinking late the night before and consequently showed up late for the first game of round robin play.

Ice packs appeared on body parts faster than massaging hands at raves.

Having last been in a gymnasium for a junior high dance, my already clouded senses were immediately overwhelmed by the strange environment. What is it about the acoustics of such a place that make you feel as if you were drowning in sound?

That peculiar sensation, along with the constant shrill cries of the referee's whistle did little to ease the aching of my head or the nagging suspicion that this event was staged to torment me.

Ten minutes and a cup of coffee later I was doing okay and judging by the smiles of the players in blue as they shook hands with the Cowichan squad after the game, the Vikes were doing okay too. The UVic women had soundly beaten their opponents with a final score of five to one, and I was finally ready to start paying attention.

Watching different match-ups for the next few hours, I became accustomed to the nuances of the indoor game and the differences between it and its outdoor sister. The play is much faster on the smaller indoor surface; bodies come together often and double teaming is a common defensive strategy.

Like ice hockey, the playing field is contained, resulting in banked shots and intense play along the boards.

Adding to my growing appreciation for the game was the ass-kicking UVic gave to SFU later that day. Within the first four minutes of the match-up, Vikes' co-captain Aoibhinn Grimes had a hat trick and the goals kept coming.

With four minutes remaining, SFU tried to make it interesting by scoring three goals, two with an extra attacker and an empty net. But as the saying goes it was too little, too late and the Vikes went on to win 7 - 3.

After the game I spoke to coach Lynne Beecroft who looks at this part of the season as a wonderful learning experience for the team.

"We're playing very well, both offensively and defensively. This is a hugely developmental period. It's a great opportunity for everyone to get a chance to play and make fast decisions."

At the end of the day, the only decision affecting my life was whether to attend Sunday's nine o'clock semi-final game against the Doves, or whether to sleep in. So far, in the on-going competition of my life, my bed is undefeated. I was told later that it was a close game.

Down by a goal at the end the Vikes pulled their goalie and were scored on to make it a 4-2 victory for the Doves. Kate Lindsay scored the only two goals for UVic in a losing cause.

I arrived just in time to see UVic play their final game against SFU for third place in the tournament. It was a close game; passionate and physical. SFU had obviously decided to step up their play and take revenge for their previous humiliation at the hands of the Vikes.

Kate Lindsay scored first for the Vikes and then SFU tied it and went ahead by a goal.

Then UVic's Andrea Rushton evened the score while Anna Grimes followed her example to give the Vikes a 3 - 2 lead. Sticks and balls were flying. Ice packs appeared on body parts faster than massaging hands at raves. And so on and so forth until there were four minutes left in the game and despite their many scoring chances, the Vikes found themselves down by a goal.

Once again the team pulled their goalie in a repeat move from the previous tournament and once again they were rewarded with the tying point coming from Rachel Peters. The finish was just as exciting as Lauren MacLean scored the winner at 42.01 of sudden death overtime.

Coach Beecroft was very happy with what she described as a "cool game."

"After the huge victory over SFU it was difficult for the team to get motivated and SFU really took it to us. But we rallied through a pressure situation and came out on top. This tournament has been great and will really prepare us for the upcoming B.C. Invitational."

What is indeed cool about their two recent comeback wins is that each time a different line produced the magic.

The tournament's end was quite anticlimactic: The Doves beat the UBC Thunderbirds 7 - 1 in the final. The highlight of the tournament was definitely the battle for third place.

It's funny because even when the Vikes were down, the women never lost their drive or their smiles.

As for myself, I never lost my faith. Over the weekend the story had taken on a life of its own in my head and I always write happy endings.

UVic remembers Courtney

BY DENA VANDALFSEN

Saturday was a day of rugby laden with memories as members of the rugby community gathered to remember Courtney Walls in a pair of memorial games.

This event has been held for the last three years. Admittance is by donation and goes toward the Courtney Walls Memorial Fund.

This year, Walls' widow Michelle presented the first annual Walls scholarship. The award is given to a player who exemplifies the spirit of the game. The award went to Tom Larisch, a third-year centre on the Vikes squad.

"Courtney was a real outgoing person, he was a team person and well liked," said UVic head coach Doug Tate.

Courtney Walls, originally from Kelowna, came to Victoria for the rich rugby culture in 1983. He became an integral part of the Vikes rugby team, and played three international tours with UVic. Walls remained a part of the lower Island's rugby community, playing for the Crimson Tide and James Bay clubs.

"Courtney has played on some good teams. UVic established itself in the 80's and Courtney was a big part of that," said Tate.

Walls also developed writing skills as a *Martlet* reporter that he put to use as a communications specialist at the Ministry of Forests.

Men's rugby squads play for Courtney Walls.

Martlet photo by Judith Spancken

On Dec. 12, 1997 Walls, then 33, was stabbed and killed on Douglas Street by a stranger while he was on a coffee break. John Thomas Gibson, 22, was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to a minimum 20 years in prison before he's eligible for parole.

In the first game, the Friends of Courtney team, including former national team members Mark Wyatt, Marius Felix, Mark Cardinal and Tom Woods, defeated the UVic Norsemen 37-30 at Wallace Field.

"It was like a reunion, some of the guys came from back east. I think that shows a lot of respect for Courtney," said Tate. "It was no question that some of our younger players were out-maneuvered. It is always beneficial to play against that calibre."

The later game saw the current Vikes defeat the UVic alumni 40-17 at Centennial Stadium. "There were some very good players on the alumni team, but we are playing very solid right now," said Tate.

The Vikes have set high goals for the rest of their season.

"We want to win the rest of the games in the Vancouver Island first division, and go undefeated on our California tour, " said Tate.

The Vikes are set to play the Pacific Pride on Feb. 5.

"It's probably going to be our hardest game," said Tate. "This is a team that many of our players aspire to play on."

Weekend games hurt Vike standings

BY JORDANA FROESE

The Vikes women's basketball team won their first game 77-62, but couldn't contain the title-defending Alberta Pandas in the second match-up and lost 61-69. The men were handed two losses by Alberta and moved to 9-7 in Canada West play.

Fridays' game saw the UVic women beat Alberta thanks to outstanding play from Janet McLachlan, who scored 20 points and had 11 rebounds. Lindsay Brooke also had 15 points for the Vikes.

The losses really hurt us this weekend, we'll have to win at least one of our games at UBC if we want a shot at second.

The Pandas were not to be underestimated and came back the following night with more aggression and desire to defend their title.

"They are a very good team," said Vikes head coach Kathy Shields. "They had lost their last three games on the road and the loss to us must have hurt. They were a very determined, almost desperate team."

The Pandas stepped up their play and stayed close to the Vikes throughout most of the game. At the half, UVic was down by two, but the pressure Alberta applied caused the Vikes to shoot poorly and have problems with their offense.

Although Brooke had 14 points and Megan Dalziel had 11 points and 11 rebounds, UVic took only its second loss of the season. It was the first loss since losing to Regina in November.

According to coach Shields, the women will now have to win three out of four games in order to finish the season at number one. They'll be on the road this weekend to take on UBC.

"UBC is a tough team," said Shields. "We'll have to play a very disciplined game."

The men had a very close game with the Alberta Bears Friday night, losing 72-70. With Keith Bustard back in the lineup, the Vikes controlled most of the game and were up 34-31 at halftime.

Bustard netted 19 points for UVic, but the team couldn't hang on to the lead as the game ran down.

"We got a few breaks but went dry in the last two minutes of the game," said head coach Guy Vetrie. "It cost us the game."

The following evening the Vikes didn't rebound from the loss and fell behind early to eventually lose 69-45.

"We didn't respond as well as we should have," Vetrie stated. "We couldn't dig ourselves out of the hole we went into in the first half."

Etienne Orr-Ewing had 11 points for UVic and was the only Vike to be in double figures.

The loss moves the Vikes to 9-7 in Canada West play, while the Bears are 9-5. This means that UVic will have to play hard if they want a chance at second or third place in the conference.

"The losses really hurt us this weekend," Vetrie stated. "We'll have to win at least one of our games at UBC if we want a shot at second."

Men's volleyball takes leaps

BY CRAIG BATTLE

The UVic men's volleyball team has quietly won its way to the best record of any sports team on campus.

The Vikes are currently 13-1-1, not to mention 10-0 during the first semester. The nationally number one ranked women's basketball team can't even boast a winning percentage this good.

"I'm extremely happy with the progress of the team thus far and I am looking forward to our continued success throughout the remainder of the season," said head coach Todd Morrison.

Along with winning every game last semester, the team received two first place titles at British Columbia Volleyball Association (BCVA) sanctioned tournaments in Vancouver. But so far, the second term has not been as successful.

"We had a month off, we had three practises, then we went to a tournament," Morrison said. "I'm hoping the guys can shake off the rust, and return to the level we were at before Christmas."

But he adds that power hitter Darryl McCrady hasn't lost a step.

"He was able to maintain some consistency over the break. He's definitely the most consistent."

Four other players have had outstanding seasons for the Vikes as well. Setter Jason Friesen has created an effective attack strategy and has determined several successful play selections. The team has capitalized on the leadership of middle blocker, Cam Wilson, as well as the consistent scoring ability of power hitter Brian Hiebert.

Ontario native, Chris Entwhistle, has also shone from the newly developed "Libero" position. His exceptional passing and defense are well-suited to what Morrison calls a "defensive specialist" role.

"Basically it's passing and digging," said Morrison.

The Libero change is helpful, as a Libero can check in and out of the game without checking in at the scorer's table. But, a Libero cannot attack or participate in any play in the front row.

With all the prospects for a successful second half, Morrison doesn't think too far ahead.

"I know other teams are going to get better. I hope we can maintain our focus and our drive to continue," he said.

While the team plays most of its games on the mainland, hometown fans can see the Vikes in action on Feb. 5 for the Vic Volley Tournament.

The draw will feature club squads from all over Vancouver, and some from Victoria, mainly made up of Vikes alumni.

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Martlet photo by Carmel Ecker

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on-campus

The Circle K club meets **every Wednesday**, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in CLE C112. Come out and join us. Low commitment & volunteer projects. For more info contact rvcolson@uvic.ca

The Economics Course Union is having a social on **February 11 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Grad Lounge. This is a great chance for economic students and faculty to meet! For more info e-mail erick@uvic.ca

Drop-in peer-based support group for female survivors of sexualized violence. Meets **Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** at our Sexual Assault Centre (SUB B027) starting **February 7.** Drop in or call 472-4388 for more information.

off-campus

Prayer service for Colombia and Latin America. Come to St. Saviour's Anglican Church **Saturday, January 29** at 7:00 p.m. Please bring donations of non-prescription medicines, non-perishable foodstuffs, and diapers/pampers.

Reading break Effective Cycling courses available. CanBike II Effective Cycling: Feb. 19 & Feb 21-23 2000. CanBike Effective Cycling Instructor's Upgrade **February 26 and 27**. The UVic Bicycle Users Committee recommends these courses offered by CanBike instructor Ray Hall. For more information, see the Coming Events section at web.uvic.ca/uvbikes or phone Ray at 380-0172.

Want to be a mountain biker who gives back to the community? Join South Island Mountain Bike Society (SIMBS), or go out every third Sunday to Hartland (The Dump), to help rebuild/construct trails. Call Greg Carmichael at 744-4125 or Jim Richardson at 383-7664 for more information.

Diotima Philosophy Society. Explore diverse philosophical orientations, Western and Eastern. Improve thinking, awareness, and mediating skills. All levels. Mondays 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Room 213, 932 Balmoral. $3. 595-5097.

tutors

The Thinkery: Tutoring for English/humanities $20/hr. Excelling in the Arts $18. (M.A. graduate, Wagner Fellow ('95), author.) Proofreading, mentorial service, etc. Phone 595-8438 or fax 595-8401.

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486 Computer; Windows 3.1, Word, monitor, keyboard and mouse. Best offer. 472-3583.

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accommodations

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Large room in charcter house for rent **Febuary 1.** Yard, laundry. Fairfield. h/wd floors. $380 + 1/2 util.

volunteer

A volunteer publicity coordinator is needed for the Victoria School of Writing Society. This volunteer will work with the school's publicity committee. Experience is not necessary. This is an ideal opportunity for interested volunteers to learn how to run a publicity campaign. Come out and get involved in Victoria's writing community. Interested? Questions? Call Jessica at 477-7817.

announcements

Recovering from a breakup? You might be interested in participating in a research study that I am conducting to determine the effectiveness of a short-term journal writing program for individuals who are recovering from romantic relationship loss. For more information, please contact Jessica Altrows at 370-0345 or e-mail me with your name and telephone number at jaltrows@uvic.ca

The Fat Discussion Group for Women is a new group being run through the UVic Women's Centre. For more information, please e-mail steph_is_me@yahoo.ca or call the Women's Centre 721-8353. Note: this is not a diet or therapy group!

Interested in cooking? Two third year UVic students looking to start a cooking club. We have very little formal training, but love frying pans. Call Scott at 889-4741.

getaways

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hey you!

Wanted: Tall, dirty-blonde boy with a passion for hazelnut shakes and climbing walls. Must own invertibrates text-book, cloudless-sky blue (with a hint of pistachio green) fleece jacket and expressive eyebrows. I think we've been oogling each other since September. . . Interested or terrified?

Geography Jenny – We spoke on Saturday January 8, waiting for the bus downtown. I've been **kicking myself** that I said how much I wanted to run into you again. Instead of getting your number, I've been thinking about ways for both of us to feel more Victorian.
kicking_myself@hotmail.com

Satan: your loyal servant Dipsy asks you to visit your wrath upon the low-life who stole my nametag. Please send a most uncomfortable pus-leaking plague to this individual's groin.

Happiness is a hand-job!

Oh where oh where are those little rainbow packages? Gloves? Your t-shirt is in the mail you star you.

We were on the same bus again, leaving campus. you look sweet, especially your dimples. coffee? tea? mystic vale? anything? please.

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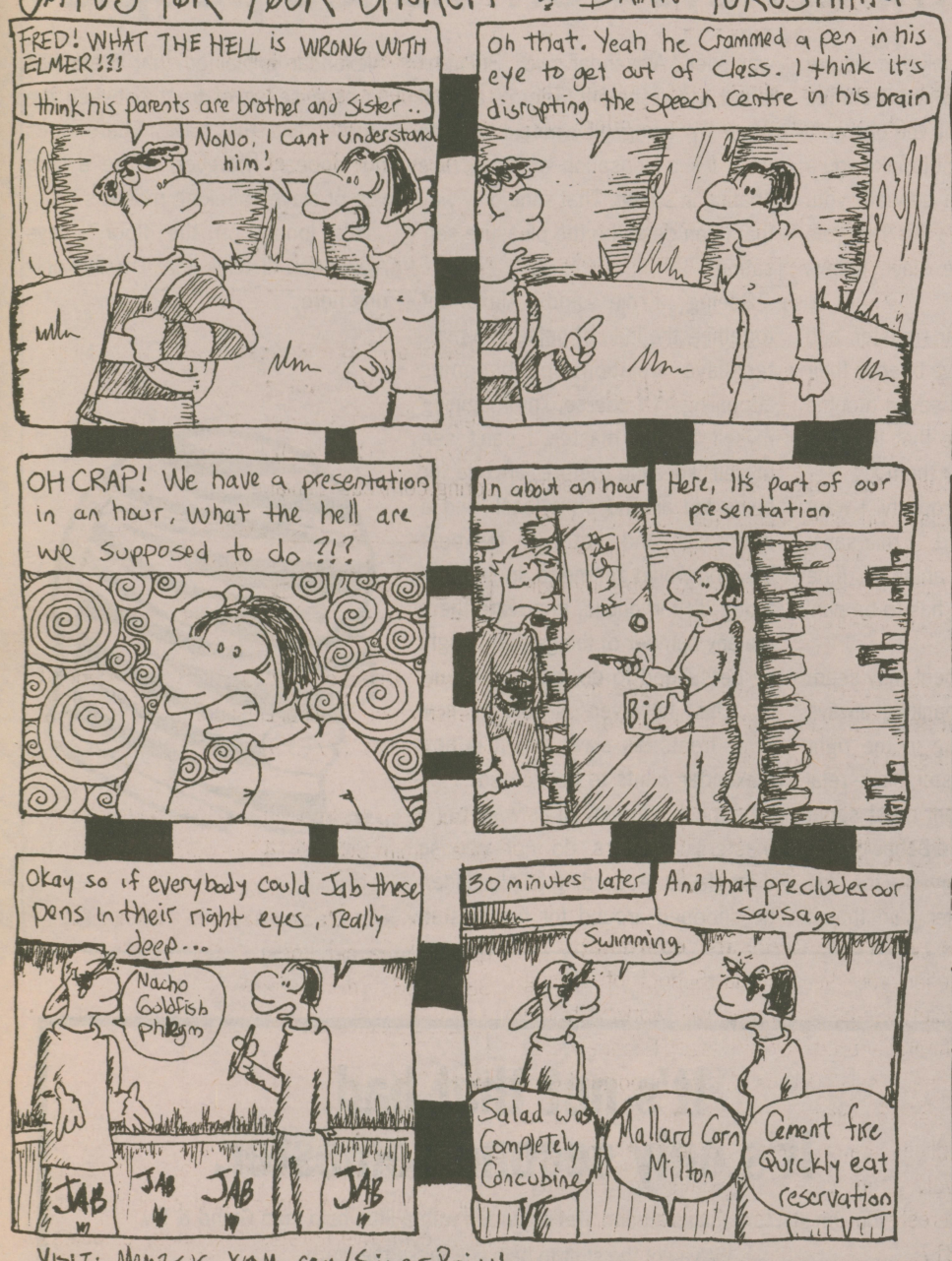
FRED! WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ELMER!?!
I think his parents are brother and Sister..
NoNo, I Cant understand him!
Oh that. Yeah he Crammed a pen in his eye to get out of Class. I think it's disrupting the Speech Centre in his brain
OH CRAP! We have a presentation in an hour, what the hell are we supposed to do ?!?
In about an hour
Here, It's part of our presentation
Big
Okay so if everybody could Jab these pens in their right eyes, really deep...
Nacho Goldfish phlegm
JAB
JAB
JAB
JAB
30 minutes later
And that precludes our sausage
Swimming
Salad was Completely Concubine
Mallard Corn Milton
Cement fire Quickly eat reservation

VISIT: MEMBERS.XOOM.COM/SIMPLEBRIAN

TALES OF SELF ROMANCE TWO.

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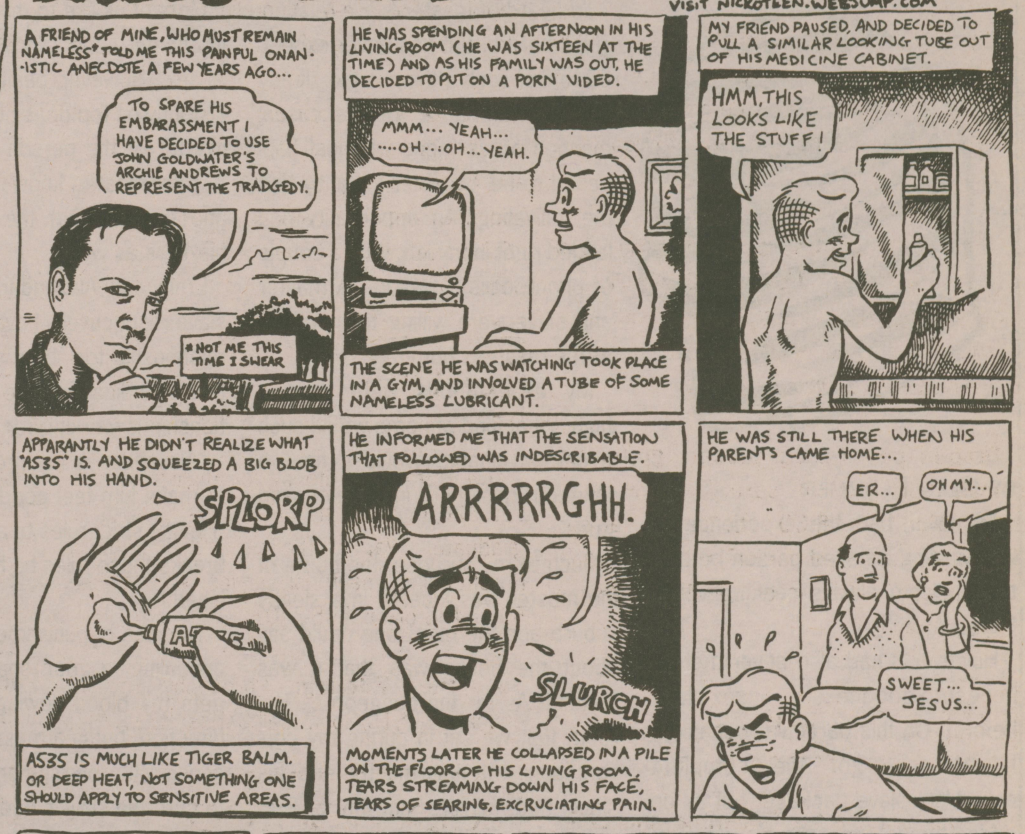
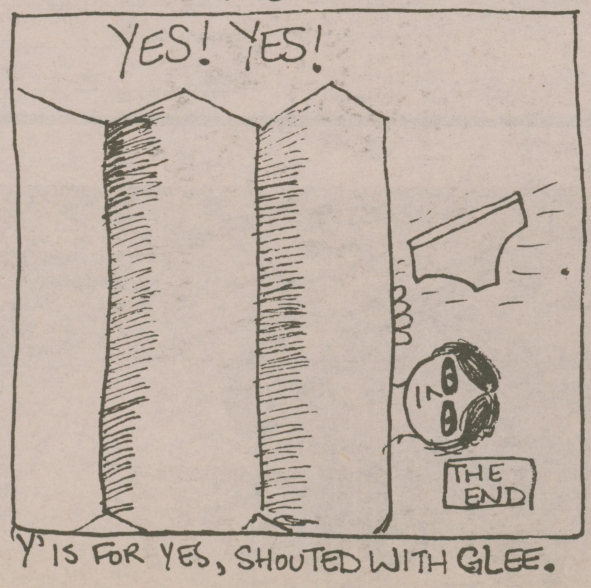

A FRIEND OF MINE, WHO MUST REMAIN NAMELESS* TOLD ME THIS PAINFUL ONANISTIC ANECDOTE A FEW YEARS AGO...
TO SPARE HIS EMBARRASSMENT I HAVE DECIDED TO USE JOHN GOLDWATER'S ARCHIE ANDREWS TO REPRESENT THE TRADGEDY.
*NOT ME THIS TIME I SWEAR
HE WAS SPENDING AN AFTERNOON IN HIS LIVING ROOM (HE WAS SIXTEEN AT THE TIME) AND AS HIS FAMILY WAS OUT, HE DECIDED TO PUT ON A PORN VIDEO.
MMM... YEAH... ....OH...OH... YEAH.
THE SCENE HE WAS WATCHING TOOK PLACE IN A GYM, AND INVOLVED A TUBE OF SOME NAMELESS LUBRICANT.
MY FRIEND PAUSED, AND DECIDED TO PULL A SIMILAR LOOKING TUBE OUT OF HIS MEDICINE CABINET.
HMM, THIS LOOKS LIKE THE STUFF!
APPARANTLY HE DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT "ASS" IS, AND SQUEEZED A BIG BLOB INTO HIS HAND.
SPLORP
ASS IS MUCH LIKE TIGER BALM. OR DEEP HEAT, NOT SOMETHING ONE SHOULD APPLY TO SENSITIVE AREAS.
HE INFORMED ME THAT THE SENSATION THAT FOLLOWED WAS INDESCRIBABLE.
ARRRRRGHH.
SLURCH
MOMENTS LATER HE COLLAPSED IN A PILE ON THE FLOOR OF HIS LIVING ROOM, TEARS STREAMING DOWN HIS FACE, TEARS OF SEARING, EXCRUCIATING PAIN.
HE WAS STILL THERE WHEN HIS PARENTS CAME HOME...
ER...
OH MY...
SWEET... JESUS...
ANOTHER STORY RELATED TO ME BY A FRIEND CONCERNS EVERY WANKERS WORST NIGHTMARE. THIS FRIEND HAD A CERTAIN RITUAL HE PRACTICED EACH DAY
A MOST GUYS DO, SOME STAND, I, MYSELF TEND TO KNEEL.
HE WOULD LOCK HIS BEDROOM DOOR, STRIP NAKED, LIE ON HIS BED, PUT ON HIS HEADPHONES, CLOSE HIS EYES, AND GO TO IT.
MMMM YEAH...
AFTER ENJOYING A PARTICULARILY SATISFYING SOLO-SESSION, HE WIPED THE SPERM OFF HIS CHEST, AND OPENED HIS EYES TO SEE...
WHA... OH NO.
HIS DINNER LEFT ON THE TABLE BESIDE HIS BED, HIS MOTHER HAD OPENED HIS (UNLOCKED) DOOR SEEN HIM MASTURBATING FURIOUSLY AND HAD QUIETLY PUT HIS DINNER ON THE TABLE.
THEY NEVER SPOKE OF IT AGAIN.

HMMM...30 MINUTES 'TIL PRESS TIME, AND STILL A BLANK STRIP ON THE COMICS PAGE...
GRAPHICS EDITOR. THAT'S ME!
Comics for the Church
BIG BLANK SPOT!
DAMN! JUST 10 MINUTES LEFT!
SHIT. IF ONLY THAT ONE COMIC HADN'T BEEN TOO SEXIST TO PRINT!
BY JOVE I THINK I'VE GOT IT! THIS IS THE SEX ISSUE! I'LL JUST DRAW...
RABBITS GETTING IT ON!
OH MY...
HUH?
OH YEAH!

THE DUBIOUS CONCEPTION, (FOR EDWARD GOREY)

IS YOUR MOM A THIEF? 'CAUSE SHE STOLE THE STARS FROM THE SKY AND PUT THEM IN YOUR EYES!
'E' IS FOR EXCEPTIONAL COME-ONS, OFTEN MORONIC

darian m. kovacs picimamma@hotmail.com



Sex column

How I learned something new from naked people

BY GLEN PLUMMER

I'd never had the experience of interviewing a naked person before, though I am always seeking volunteers.

However, I had also never met an honest-to-goodness sex-slave before. On this particular occasion, I not only got the complete naked/sex-slave package, but as an added bonus, I met the slave's master.

I'd heard of master/slave relationships before, but had never expected to find such a thing in the sleepy city of Victoria. A friend's casual mention of his friend who just happened to be a master instantly had me salivating. An opportunity had landed right in my lap. With a couple of phone calls, I was in. A master and slave were willing to meet me at the master's home.

My expectations were running high. What kind of home would such a person inhabit? Would it have a dungeon designed in leather and studs?

Much to my surprise, the home of the master was located in a sleepy suburb and the most one could say about the house was that it was tasteful. As for the dungeon... The room that we sat in during my conversation with the master and his slave had mirrors on the ceiling, some nice wood tones and a cosy woodstove. A dungeon for yuppies?

Most of us like to think that we are in charge, especially when it comes to sex. However, being the one consistantly on top does not make you a master of the person beneath you. A true master knows his/her role and ensures that the slave knows his/hers as well.

Ernie and Alexandar, master and slave respectively, have been in their relationship for about seven months and all indications are that the relationship is working for them.

"Alaxandar is my property, I want to make him feel good," Ernie says. "He has strict rules to abide by. If he breaks those rules he has to be punished."

The idea of punishment may seem appealing, a good spanking always gets my blood flowing in the right direction, but in a master/slave relationship the punishment must serve to curb the slave's bad behaviour.

"The worst punishment for me would be if my master said that it was over," Alexandar said. "Being hit is not a punishment. There's a point when I'm being hit where I start to drift. It's a sensation of flying, like floating in space. That's the only way that I can describe the pleasure sensation."

Seeing Ernie and Alexander together, the idea of being in a master/slave relationship becomes appealing. Of course, I'm imagining myself as the master. I can't see myself kneeling before anyone or being led around on a leash and a dog collar. And, not even the best blow-job would get me to drink out of a dog dish in public. In private there are any number of things that I might be persuaded to do, but not in public. This, however, is exactly how Ernie treats his slave and it is how Alexandar wants to be treated.

As much as many of us want to be masters, masters do not choose their slaves. According to Alexandar, he shopped around for his master. Alexandar explained that there has to be a sense of trust between the master and the slave. There does not appear, however, to be a long line of slaves seeking masters.

"It's lonely on the floor," says Alexandar. "I think that I'm the only one here."

It's not that bad.
It's only second semester.

You can still turn things around. Get organized with a little help from Grand & Toy.
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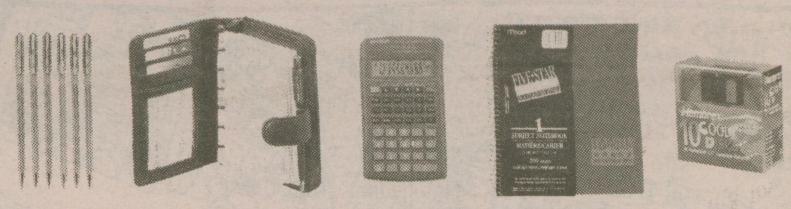

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Directing -- Ulu Grosbard, *Deep End of the Ocean, True Confessions, Georgia*

Saturday, Feb. 5 at Laurel Point Inn, Boardroom B
Writing for New Media -- Douglas Gayeton, *Johnny Mnemonic;* Ian Verchere, Electronic Arts

Saturday, Feb. 5 at CineVic, 101 - 610 Johnson St.
Film and Television Make Up
sponsored by M·A·C

Sunday, Feb. 6 at CineVic, 101 - 610 Johnson St.
Actors and the Cold Reading -- Casting Director: Johanna Ray, *Blue Velvet, Wild at Heart*

Sunday, Feb. 6 at Laurel Point Inn, Boardroom B
Producing -- Niv Fichman, producer *Red Violin, Last Night, Yo Yo Ma: Inspired by Bach*

THE SALON SESSIONS

Laurel Point Inn, Salon AB

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Making it Possible Part I 9:00 am & Part II 11:30 am

Critics Panel 1:30 pm

The Rehearsal Process 3:30 pm
sponsored by Global Television

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Artists and the New Media 9:00 am
Sponsored by TELUS BC New Media & Broadcast Fund

Beyond Government Funding 11:30 am

Making the Cut: An Editors Take 1:30 pm

The Pitch 3:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Laurel Point Inn, Salon CD

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Query Letters and Loglines 10:30 am

DV Production 1:15 pm

Secret's of Screenplay Structure 3:45 pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Costume Design 10:30 am

The Art of Film Make - Up 1:15 pm
sponsored by M·A·C

Creating the Tragic Moment 3:45 pm

Laurel Point Inn · CINEVIC · TELUS Mobility · CBC radioONE 90.5 · 100.5 The Island's Rock · 1200 CKXM Today's Hot Country · TV · Famous Players · CHUM Television · Viacom Canada · Kodak · Telefilm Canada

We acknowledge the assistance of the province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture - British Columbia Arts Council and Cultural Industries Branch.

The Greater Victoria Intermunicipal Committee, consisting of the Municipalities of Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria.

We acknowledge the support of Human Resources Canada, Victoria.

BC Gaming Commission · Canadian Heritage · Canada Council for the Arts · Western Economic Diversification Canada · British Columbia Film

OTHER EVENTS

Lets Make Film
February 5th at 9:00 pm, St. Ann's Academy, Auditorium 835 Humboldt St.
This original film experience will be as spontaneous and alive as music, theatre or dance could ever hope to be. Given Super 8 cameras and film stock, an audience of 200 people will merge and collide to script, rehearse, shoot and screen a short film all in one evening. Join us at St. Ann's for a night out of the ordinary. Hosted by the fabulous and incredibly tall Randy Waldie and his wacky sidekick Al Penty.

Gala and Awards Ceremony
February 4th at 9:00 pm
Catch the opening feature film and then join us at the Laurel Point Inn, Terrace Room for eighteen of the hottest young R & B musicians who will get your "toes to twitching". Hors d'oeuvre buffet and two drinks included.

End of Festival Bash
February 10th at 9:00 pm, D'arcy McGee's, 1127 Wharf Street
The Festival week is over, come dance your blues away and celebrate a great week of film. The Audience Favourite Award will be announced.

Dinner and a Movie
What could be more fun than dinner at the Med Grill Downtown and then catching the latest hot flick at the Festival? 19.97 plus GST

Art Exhibition: Freeze Frame
Community Arts Council, Sussex Building
January 28 - February 4
The merging of film and art. Darlings of the local Victoria art scene Randy Strange, Shawn Sheppard and Martin Bachelor.

Free Screenings at the Community Arts Council, Sussex Building
February 4 - 9 11:30am - 1:30pm & & 7:00 to 9:00 pm
A treasure trove of delights from the CineVic collection. Classics from the much awarded National Film Board.

TICKET PRICES

prices include GST
(GST # 883954026RT0001)

Features $7.50
Video Documentaries $5.50 each
Shorts $2.25/program
Film Buff Punch Card: 5 films for $32.25
Film Pass $85.75 all films and videos
Forum Pass: all panels & speakers $128.75
(master classes not included)
Salon Session: $21.25
(excluding the Critics panel)
Breakout Sessions $10.75
Critics panel $8.50
VIP Pass $214 (films, forum, gala, end bash)
Let's Make Film $10.75
Master Classes $107
Opening Gala $26.75
End of Festival Bash $10.75
Festival Membership Button $2

A NEW MEDIA PRESENTATION

An Egg
Directed by Maria Papacharalambous & Achielleas Kentonis Cyprus
World Premiere
A Computer Generated Image piece that merges abstract art and painting to prove that computer animation doesn't always have to look like ReBoot. Fun, whimsical and uplifting. Catch it during the film forum at the Laurel Point Inn.

SHORT FILMS & VIDEOS

LAUREL POINT INN, SALON CD

Strange Trips:
Films that Mess up Your mind
Friday, February 4, 7:00 pm
Sunday, February 6, 12:00 pm
Thursday, February 10, 7:00 pm
Orange Above
They Saved His Brain
Joshua's Dream
Brasil Maravilha
Yo - Yo
400 series compilation
Bride Stripped Bare By Her Bachelors, Even... More
Barnyard Tips
Vision Point

Movin' & Groovin':
Films About Rhythm
Saturday, February 5, 12:00 pm
Monday, February 7, 7:00 pm
Old Fashioned Waltz
Z-Film
Hempster 001: D.A.R.E. remix
Hello
Cheeezcake
A Little Star
When the Glowin' Gets Tough
Squat
Bread

Twisted Tales For Sweethearts & Sickos
Saturday, February 5, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, February 9, 7:00 pm
Goodpenis Adventures
To Build a Better Mousetrap
The Beckers: Cannibalism & Your Teen
Midnight Carnival
Deus Ex Machina
Maly Milos
Mieux (Better)
Fearsome
Porte de la Lune
Seasons Cretins

Loves Me, Loves Me Not:
Small Tales of Romance
Sunday, February 6, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 pm
Big Heart
Primrose
The Breakup Artist
Big Mistake
Stealing Kisses

CINEVIC: 101-610 JOHNSON

Sex and Death:
The Wonder of Ego Annihilation
Friday, February 4, 7:30 pm
Tuesday, February 8, 6:00 pm
so far gone
Slut
Eulogy/Obverse
Deja Vu Deja Vu
The Killers
Vedma

HomeGrown
Saturday, February 5, 6:00 pm
Monday, February 7, 7:30 pm
Tuesday February 8, 7:30 pm
The Way of the Sword
Laughing Under Water
Something Extraordinary
Sophie
Greener Pastures

Getting Axed: Horrors of the 9 to 5
Saturday, February 5, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 9, 6:00 pm
The Fare
Switch
A Line of Taxis
Evening (Vecer)

Pop Goes the Whimsy
Sunday, February 6, 6:00 pm
Wednesday, February 9, 7:30 pm
Simply the Best
Harry Knuckles and the Aztec Mummy
Nutrisound
Sparklehorse
Waiter Duty

Not the Prom Queen:
Tales of Teenage Hell
Sunday, February 6, 7:30 pm
Thursday, February 10, 6:00 pm
Neverland
Parelisa
Ecstasy

Architects of the Mind
Friday, February 4, 6:00 pm
Monday, February 7, 6:00 pm
Thursday, February 10, 7:30 pm
The Last Drawing of Canneletto
Luce. Tempo. Roma.
Industrial Bodies
Bear

DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES

LAUREL POINT INN, SALON CD

THE PAINS OF EVE
Fri, Feb. 4, 8:15 pm; Mon, Feb. 7, 10 pm

Trafficking Cinderella
Awarded Certificate of Excellence, U.S International Film Festival
Directed by Mira Niagolova
This world-tour of slave-trade prostitution examines the impact of the fall communism has had on the lives of women in the former Eastern Bloc countries. The lure of easy money, promised in classified ads, leads to a path of abduction, enslavement and exploitation.

Valley of the Boys
Directed by Monika Khushf
Having worked in Silicon Valley, ex-programmer turned documentarian Monika Khushf turns the lens on her former field and its gender biases. Whether it's Leggo, Nerf or pop can replicas of the Golden Gate Bridge, this is geek culture in its purest form. In the end Valley of the Boys allows its interviewed subjects to incriminate themselves.

Le Beau Jacques
Awarded Best Short Film, Marseille
Directed by Stephane Thibault
In some docs, the subject material is so utterly fascinating and bizarre, the best thing a director can do is get out of the way. Such is the case in Le Beau Jacques, which offers up the lives of the director's two aunts who are ardent (read: fanatical) Jacques Villeneuve fans.

BUILDING HEAVEN REMEMBERING EARTH
Fri, Feb. 4, 10 pm; Tues, Feb. 8, 8:15 pm

Building Heaven/Remembering Earth
Directed by Oliver Hockenhull
The latest work by the fascinatingly philosophical Oliver Hockenhull, wowed audiences at VIFVF '98 with Aldous Huxley: The Gravity of Light.) Hockenhull has a tremendous flair for capturing unique visuals and his images of art and architecture cut deeply to the intensely personal vision that created these works.

PERSONAL TRAGEDY, COLLECTIVE BETRAYAL
Sat, Feb. 5, 8:15 pm; Weds, Feb. 9, 8:15 pm

Theme: Murder
Awarded the Silver Hugo, Chicago International Film Festival
Directed by Martha Swetzoff
A personal, provocative film about a daughter's struggle to come to terms with her father's gruesome death and her discovery of his secret life. Swetzoff attempts to make sense of his homicide while taking the audience into the emotions and wisdoms known only to those who have lost a loved-one to murder. *"Griping...darkly hypnotic...a haunting film."* - Boston Magazine

There's A Strong Wind in Beijing
Directed by Ju An Qi
SMUGGLED OUT OF CHINA! World Premiere
Director Ju An Qi makes a direct attack on China's media culture. What offends the Chinese bureaucracy so much is his direct-media approach that flies in the face of state-issued ideals and imagery. What Qi winds up creating is a virtual tableau of modern Chinese society as he pounds the street, shakes up businesses, and invades public and private buildings everywhere.

THE RAVEN'S FEATHER
Sat, Feb. 5, 10 pm; Tues, Feb. 8, 10 pm

Who Owns the Past?
Directed by Jed Riffe
The unearthing of "Kennewick Man" sets the stage for an examination of how misguided and disrespectful white academia's scientific investigation of native culture can be.

Pride
Awarded Best Canadian Short at the Vancouver International Film Festival
Directed by Michelle Ryan & Jessica Salo
Born in a mixed family and sporting red hair our subject struggles to find her place in the face of stereotyping and racism.

The Meaning of Art
Directed by Marianna Rowinska
A visual journey exploring the internal world of Native Artists and how spirituality comes to life in their art.

A Day Out
Directed by Troy Perkins
With the camera assuming the passive, quiet eye of its main character, A Day Out documents with subliminal frustration a day long run-in between a small outing of native kids and some local redneck yokels.

LEGACY
Sun, Feb. 6, 8:15 pm; Weds, Feb. 9, 10 pm

Everybody Nose
Directed by Gita Saedi
A humorous look at the human nose and its international character, Everybody Nose offers up commentary on our ideas of identity and beauty.

The Last Enemy
Directed by Nitzan Gilady World Premiere
In 1998, as peace talks stalled in the middle east, Jim Mirrione, an American, finished the final draft of his play "The Last Enemy". Believing that coexistence is as simple as common purpose, a mixed cast of Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian actors were assembled. And so begins the political awakening of Jim Mirrione.

PINK PINK? BLUE BLUE?
Mon, Feb. 7, 8:15 pm; Thurs, Feb. 10, 10 pm

Two Brides & A Scalpel: Diary of a Lesbian Marriage
Directed by Mark Achbar
The frank and compelling story of Georgina and Linda, two Nanaimo lesbians whose recent marriage caused a media furor across the country.
Note: contains graphic surgical scenes.

The pINCO Triangle
Best Cultural Doc Nominee – Hot Docs
Directed by Patrick Crowe & Ruth Whiston
Is there a Canadian alive who doesn't have at least a dim awareness of the Sudbury Nickel, a symbol of WASP work ethic and family values? Well hold on to your hats as Crowe and Wilson, with video cameras in hand expose the stories of gay youths trying to grow up in the shadow of that massive monument.

CITIZEN HONG KONG
Sun, Feb. 6, 10 pm; Thurs, Feb. 10, 8:15 pm

Citizen Hong Kong
Directed by Ruby Yang
Filmmaker Ruby Yang returns to the Hong Kong she and her family left 20 years ago, to both revisit her family history and rediscover the culture, people and politics of a country now under Chinese rule. Yang skillfully weaves her personal explorations through the stories of five young people, whose lives she follows for a year and a half. These Hong Kongers contribute their own 'video diaries' to the film and reveal themselves as human, quirky, endearing and mostly optimistic about their own and Hong Kong's future.

VICTORIA INDEPENDENT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 4 - 10, 2000

WWW.COASTNET.COM/~CINEVIC

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TICKETS AT MED GRILL DOWNTOWN & CHAPTERS

FEATURE FILMS

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai

Directed by Jim Jarmusch USA Western Canadian Premiere
Capitol 6: Friday, Feb. 4, 7 pm; The Vic: Sunday, Feb. 6, 12:30 pm

Forest Whitaker *(The Crying Game)* stars as Ghost Dog, a high tech assassin for the mafia. In addition to his arsenal of ultra modern weaponry, he keeps an ancient text of the Way of the Samurai as his bible. He has also pledged eternal allegiance to an aging Mafia hood who once saved his life. The Mafia family, filled with familiar faces from the '70's, is indeed showing the wear and tear of passing years. They're behind on their rent, and when they go to make a hit they huff and puff their way up the stairs. When the Mafia family crosses Ghost Dog, he reacts in true samurai style.

Preceded by
Stampede Eats Me Up Inside Directed by Trevor Mahovsky BC

Me Myself I

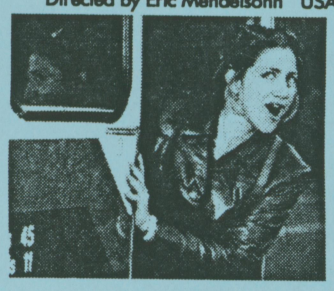
Directed by Pip Karmel USA/France Western Canadian Premiere
Capitol 6: Saturday, Feb. 5, 9:30 pm; Wednesday, Feb. 9, 9:30 pm

As her birthday approaches thirty-something Pamela Drury (Rachel Griffiths) examines the life she has chosen as a single, career focused writer for a popular monthly magazine. In a reality warp Pamela finds herself in the role of housewife to her high school sweetheart (David Roberts) and mother of two small boys and one adolescent teen girl. As she adjusts to her new role as Mom, so must her family adjust to Mom's new found assertiveness. What ensues is a comedic yet poignant look at the choices we make and the might-have beens that surround those choices.

Most popular film at Telluride Film Festival
preceded by: **The Remembrer Directed by Coreen Mayrs BC**

Judy Berlin

Capitol 6: Friday, Feb. 4, 9:30 pm; Saturday, Feb. 5, 12:30 pm
Directed by Eric Mendelsohn USA Western Canadian Premiere



A young woman, Judy Berlin, (Edie Falco) prepares to embark on a journey to L.A. to pursue an acting career. On the day she is about to leave, Judy encounters a friend from high school, David, freshly returned from LA and embittered by his own experiences there. An unusually prolonged solar eclipse plunges them into an eerie twilight. Throughout the town relationships between people intensify and erupt, smolder and rekindle. David's father is teetering on the edge of an affair with a sad, lonely co-worker. His high maintenance wife (Madeline Kahn) sees the day/night of the eclipse as a magic new world and goes exploring the neighbourhood as though it were outer space.

"Filled with an ironic sense of humour and a poetic feeling for life's little moments" - Kenneth Turan/ Los Angeles Times
Best Director 1999 Sundance Film Festival
preceded by: **Sergalio Directed Gail Lerner and Colin Campbell USA**

Dropouts

Directed by Will Wissink Holland Western Canadian Premiere
Vic Theatre: Friday, Feb. 4, noon; Capitol 6: Saturday, Feb. 5, 3 pm

Dennis, Stefan and Gina are homeless and on the run from the ghosts of their pasts. Individually they each try to survive the hardships of Amsterdam. As a counterpoint to the story the European Heads of State have gathered in Amsterdam to debate the future of European unity. Entire streets are blocked off for security reasons and the shelters are packed with Eastern European tourists pretending to be homeless. As Stefan, Dennis and Gina cross paths they cheat manipulate and curse one another yet somehow an undeniable intimacy blossoms and they negotiate their way to friendship.

preceded by: Earl & Edna Directed by Sarah Shute USA

Freeway II: Confessions of a Trick Baby

directed by Matthew Bright USA Western Canadian Premiere
Capitol 6 : Saturday, Feb. 5, 11:30pm; Tuesday, Feb. 8, 9:30 pm

A caustic tale of two escapee's from a women's correctional institute. The two renegades Cyclona, (Maria Celedonio; Touch, How to Make an American Quilt)) a psychotic serial killer and Crystal,(Natasha Lyonne; American Pie, Detroit Rock City) a bulimic bandit break for the Mexican border in a cross country rampage that would send Thelma and Louise back to their manicurists. Once in Mexico the two search for Sister Gomez, Cyclona's childhood heroine, brilliantly played by Vincent Gallo (Buffalo 66, Palookaville). *"A one-way ticket to baaad-girrl hell"* - Hollywood Reporter

preceded by: Opening Day Directed by Luke Shanahan USA

Fish Bowl (Animale Felici)

Capitol 6: Sunday, Feb. 6, 12:30 pm; Thursday, Feb. 10, 9:30 pm
Directed by Angelo Ruta Italy Canadian Premiere

A tightly woven story of four people whose paths keep crossing and the coincidences that ultimately bring tragedy. A woman keeps vigil over a man in a coma who turns out not to be her missing son. Her missing son is meanwhile unknowingly trying to sell stolen electronics to her boss. Her bosses friend is unwittingly about to have is car stolen by the man that her boss ran over and they all end up entangled in a set of synchronicities that bring heartbreak and death.

preceded by: Rituals and Resolution Directed by Michael Stein USA

DayDrift

Directed by Ryan Bonder B.C.
The Vic: Sunday, Feb. 6, 2:15 pm; Capitol 6: Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:00 pm

DayDrift is the love child of a Jack Kerouac novel and a happy ending. Vic Harlow is a successful Vancouver photographer. His life begins to unravel when his film and equipment are stolen right before a big show at a prominent gallery. Blasting his way through his opening, Vic ends the evening pissing in a potted plant. Armed with ounces of cocaine and bottles of scotch, Vic becomes acquainted with self destruction. Then mysteriously three rolls of film appear from nowhere. He develops them and discovers they are photos from his past. An elusive and enigmatic young woman (Enuka Okuma) enters, after literally running him over, and Vic is on a road trip down memory lane. Enuka Okuma won the Best Actress Award for DayDrift at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

preceded by: Sea Song/Chanson de Mer Directed by Richard Reeves BC
AND Lost and Found Directed by Gail Noonan BC

The Cup

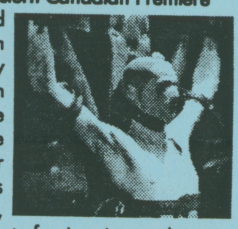
Directed by Khyentse Norbu Bhutan
The Vic: Saturday, Feb. 5, 2:15 pm; Capitol 6: Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7 pm

A movie about monks, made by a monk, starring monks. It is the delightful story of a group of Tibetan boys living in an Indian Buddhist monastery. The boys are obsessed with soccer and as the World Cup approaches they scheme to be able to watch it. Football fever is running hot throughout the hallowed halls. Soccer slogans are everywhere and the chanting of the young monks is not always in a traditional vein, much to the distress of the monastery's disciplinarian. Expulsion from the monastery is looming for the boys and a solution must be found as the Abbot tries to come to terms with the soccer-mad monks. The abbot is unconvinced,unable to understand the obsession of the western world battling over something as seemingly absurd as a cup.

"The Cup's charm, humanity and feel-good vibe make it a sure sleeper hit" - Cinema Scope Magazine
preceded by The Offering Directed by Paul Lee Ontario

TOPS and bottoms

Capitol 6: Monday, February 7, 9:30 pm
Directed by Christine Richey Ontario Western Canadian Premiere



A rich documentary of sex, power and a good flogging. TOPS and bottoms is an exploration of todays sadomasochist sub-culture. The story of S/M couple Robert and Mary is intercut with historical parallels such as the Marquis de Sade and the Victorian era. Robert is the master, he has trained over 14 slaves, Mary, despite her husband's multiple slaves, maintains she does not feel threatened. Enter the next live-in slave, 24 year old Mercedes, a woman who drops out of university to take on a six month contract as Robert's chattel.

preceded by Nobody's Nothing Directed by Bridget Farr Ontario
AND Babette's Feet Directed by Harry Killas BC

Wadd: The Life and Times of John C. Holmes

St. Ann's Academy Auditorium: Saturday, Feb. 5, 7 pm;
Monday, Feb. 7, 9:30 pm
Directed by Cass Paley USA Western Canadian Premiere

The King of Schwing. A documentary on the life of infamously well endowed porn star John Holmes. This exposé shies away from exploitation and pieces together an intimate portrait of the man attached to his 13 inch appendage. Relying on the people that lived, loved and worked with him, Wadd explores Holmes' life from childhood to marriage and into his drug addiction and involvement in a high profile multi-murder case in the seventies. Known as Johnny Wadd, he was the private dick who used his large penis "to reward his allies and conquer his enemies" in porno-noir films.

"a fascinating portrait of a Hollywood giant" - Cinema Scope Magazine

Blink of an Eye

The Vic: Saturday, Feb. 5, noon; Capitol 6: Sunday, Feb. 6, 7:00 pm
Monday, Feb. 7, 7:00 pm
Directed by Van Fischer USA Canadian Premiere

Tommy's had a troubled past but seems to be finding his way back to the good life. Through a work program he lands a position as a cook at St. Michael's School in East L.A. A job where he gains the respect and trust of those around him. The start of a shy flirtation turns into a deep love with a young woman teaching at the church.

preceded by: Applaud or Die
Directed by Brian McKeown BC

rollercoaster

The Vic: Friday, Feb. 4, 4:30 pm; Capitol 6: Sunday, Feb. 6, 3:00 pm
Directed by Scott Smith British Columbia

Five teenagers, Stick, Chloe, her boyfriend Darrin, Darrin's younger brother Justin, and Sanj, gain access to an abandoned amusement park in what appears to be a bit of harmless fun as they escape from their group home for the day. They are in search of Ben a "teen friendly" security guard who eventually agrees to run the rides, motivated by his own needs.

Listen up for a great soundtrack that includes The Gandharvas, Cracker and local band The Buttless Chaps.

preceded by Mommy, There's A Monster In My Bed
Directed Guy Bonneau and Martine Fortin Quebec

The Book of Stars

The Vic: Saturday, Feb. 5, 4:30; Capitol 6: Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7 pm
Directed by Michael Miner USA Canadian Premiere

Penny (Mary Stuart-Masterson) has been caring for Mary since the sudden death of their parents. Once a promising writer, Penny now supports them both through prostitution, and closes herself off to the world with the use of drugs. Mary, almost fifteen and blossoming with all the expectations and hope that young women possess, receives strong support from the Professor (Delroy Lindo), an exclient of Penny's. When a new neighbour moves in Mary is immediately smitten by the young man from Sarajevo.

preceded by: Gohbi and God Directed by Evangelos Maderakis USA

Totally Irresponsible

Capitol 6: Saturday, Feb. 5, 7 pm; The Vic: Sunday, Feb. 6, 4:30 pm
Directed by Karl Hirsch USA World Premiere

After getting fired, two deadbeats, Waylon and Buzz, decide to embark on a new enterprise. Getting laid. Buzz and Waylon set their sites on Barbie and Kristi, two women who should know better but then they have an enterprise of their own going. Get stoned for free. A match made in heaven? Not Quite!

Watch out for cameo performances by Kelly Jean Peters, Little Big Man and Robert Stack.

preceded by: Blind Directed by Deborah Day Ontario

The War Zone

The Vic Theatre: Friday, Feb. 4, 2:15 pm;
The Capitol 6: Sunday, Feb. 6, 9:30 pm
Directed by Tim Roth United Kingdom 99 minutes

The fabulous actor Tim Roth (Pulp Fiction, Reservoir Dogs) brings a delicate touch to his directing debut of a London family uprooted to Devon. The War Zone's protagonist, Tom, is a typical fifteen year old (horny, alienated, resentful) from a family that seems perfectly functional until Tom's sexual awakening collides with - and is unimaginably complicated by - the discovery that his father is having an incestuous relationship with his sister.

"Virtually every element in the film - pacing, acting, cinematography, script -is flawless." - National Post
preceded by: Drop Directed by Luke Carroll BC

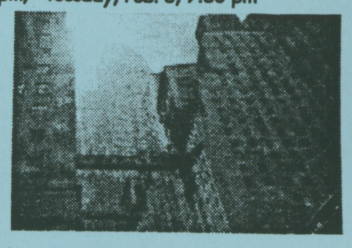
Aharon Cohen's Debt

St. Ann's Academy Auditorium:
Monday, Feb. 7, 7:00 pm; Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7:00 pm
Directed by Amalia Margolin Israel Western Canadian Premiere

A Cracker-style cop movie worth a good look. After Aharon Cohen is arrested on a technical violation of a child support/alimony order, his whereabouts and, in fact, his existence come into question . Aharon himself is a jovial, slightly enigmatic character who is surprised at his arrest rather than angry and is more annoyed at missing a crucial basketball game than at being incarcerated. Shining performances, full of warmth draw the audience into the characters' lives, in this well-crafted tale of police brutality and bureaucratic ineptness.

Julie's Poem

Directed by Luis Lopez USA World. Premiere
St. Ann's Academy Auditorium:
Sunday, Feb. 6, 5:30 pm; Tuesday, Feb. 8, 9:30 pm



Peter Hall, once a successful and well known reporter at the New Times, is a shadow of hs former self, a deeply depressed man hunted by the demons of his own profession. In a last desperate attempt to regain his fame, Peter commits the ultimate sin and steals a prime scoop from a fellow reporter. This scoop will lead him to the center of a sex scandal involving the mayor of the city, Joseph Carpenter, and an ex-prostitute, Julie Richardson who is eight and a half months pregnant with the mayor's baby.